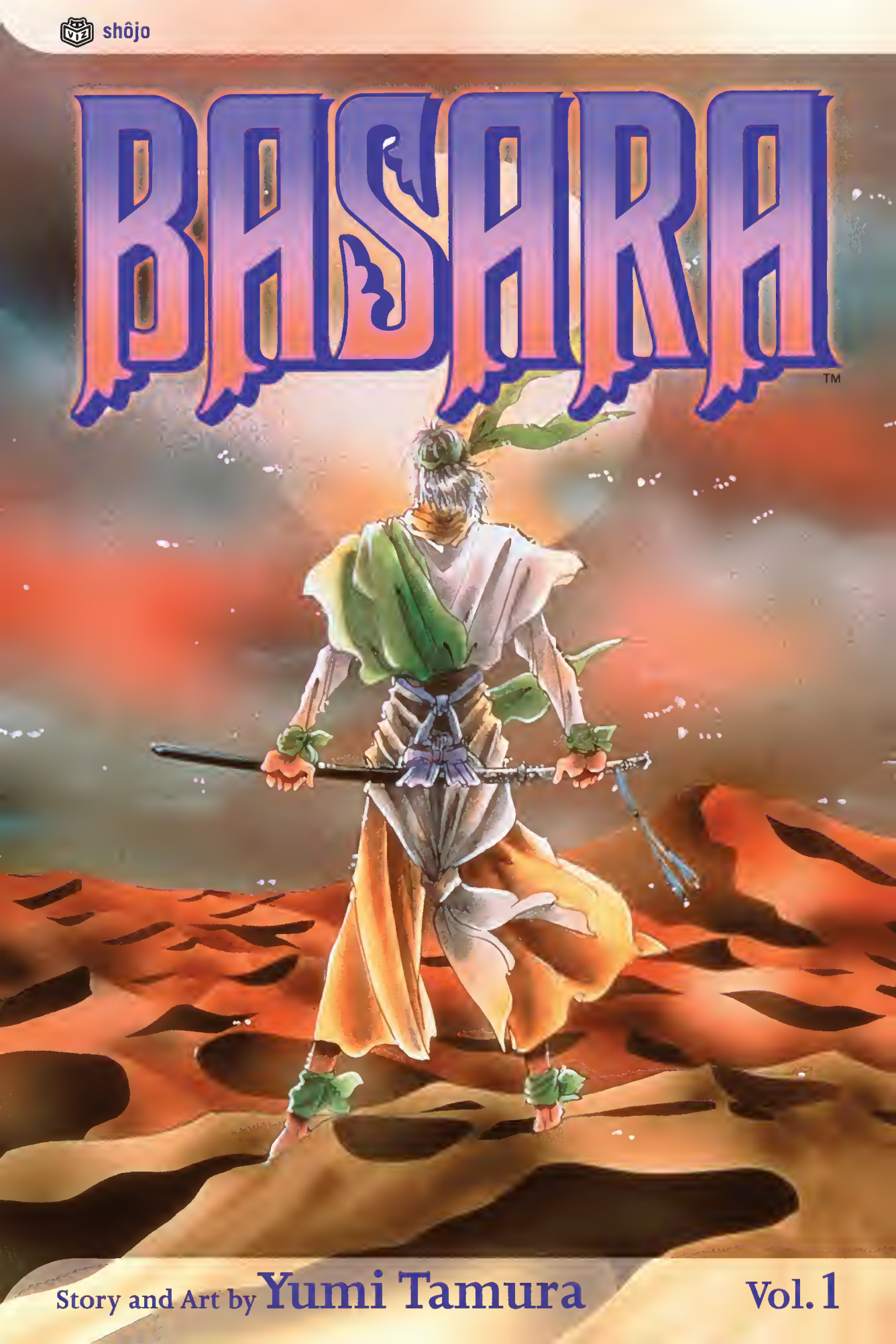
shôjo

BASARA™

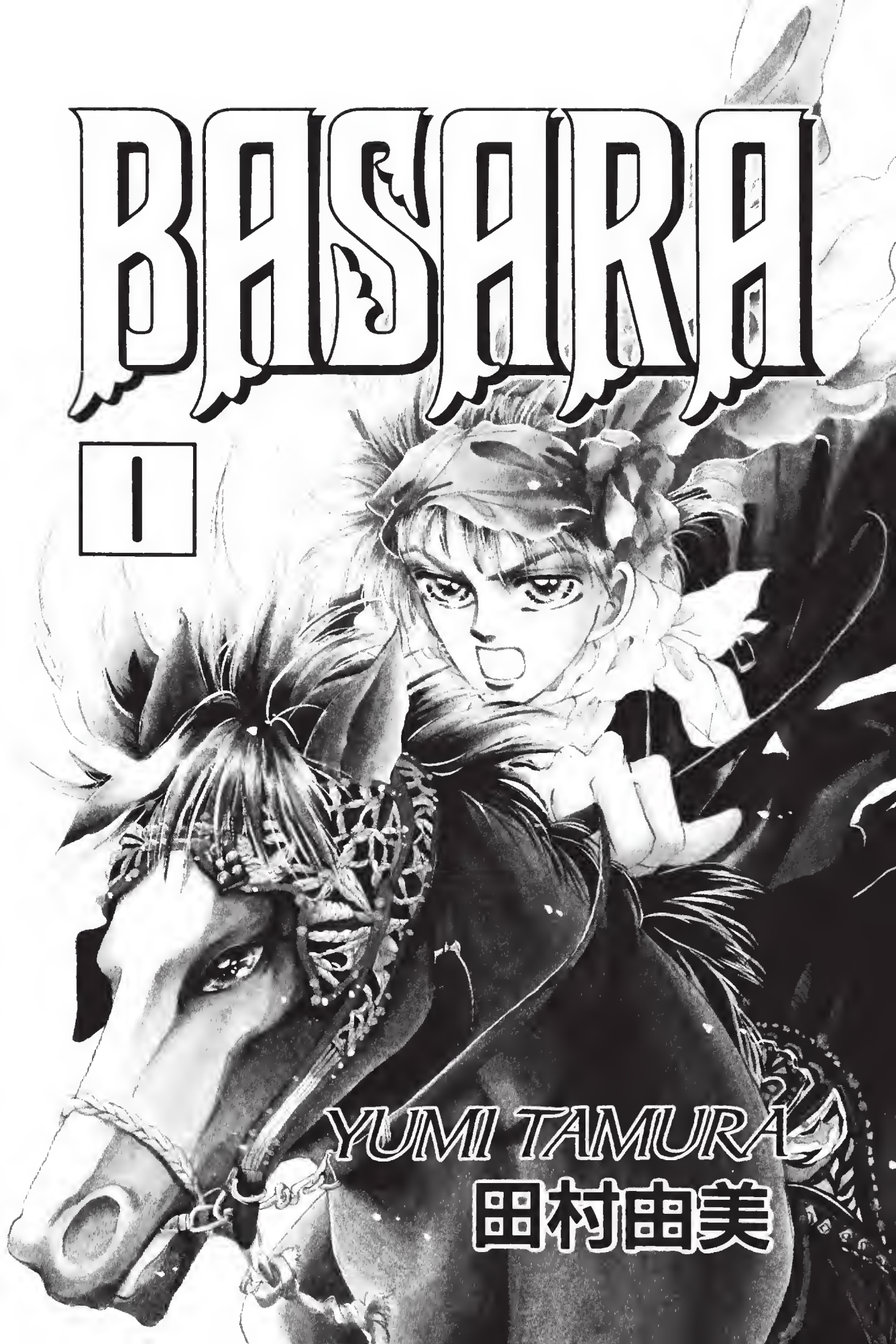


Story and Art by Yumi Tamura

Vol. 1

BASARA

1



YUMI TAMURA

田村由美

Basara

Vol. #1
Shojo Edition

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BASARA 1

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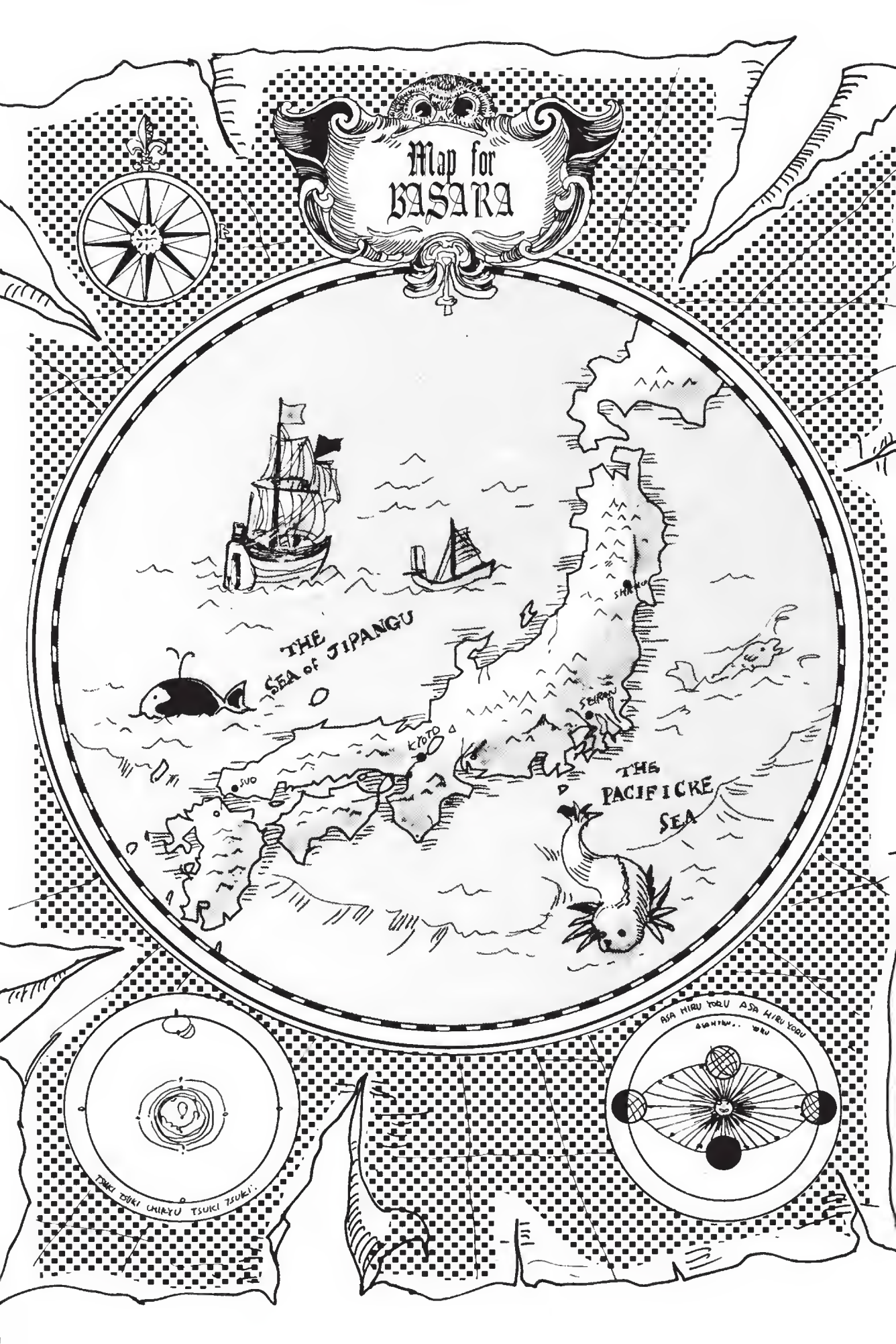
Basara: a free but noble spirit who disavows established authority and rejects the restrictions of convention.

From the Sanskrit *Vajra:* "diamond."

SCARLET TALE 1:
BOY OF DESTINY


Map for
BASARA
THE
SEA of JIPANGU
KYOTO
SUO
SHIKOKU
SEIRAN
THE
PACIFICKE
SEA
TSUKI TSUKI CHIRYU TSUKI TSUKI..
ASA HIRU YORU ASA HIRU YORU

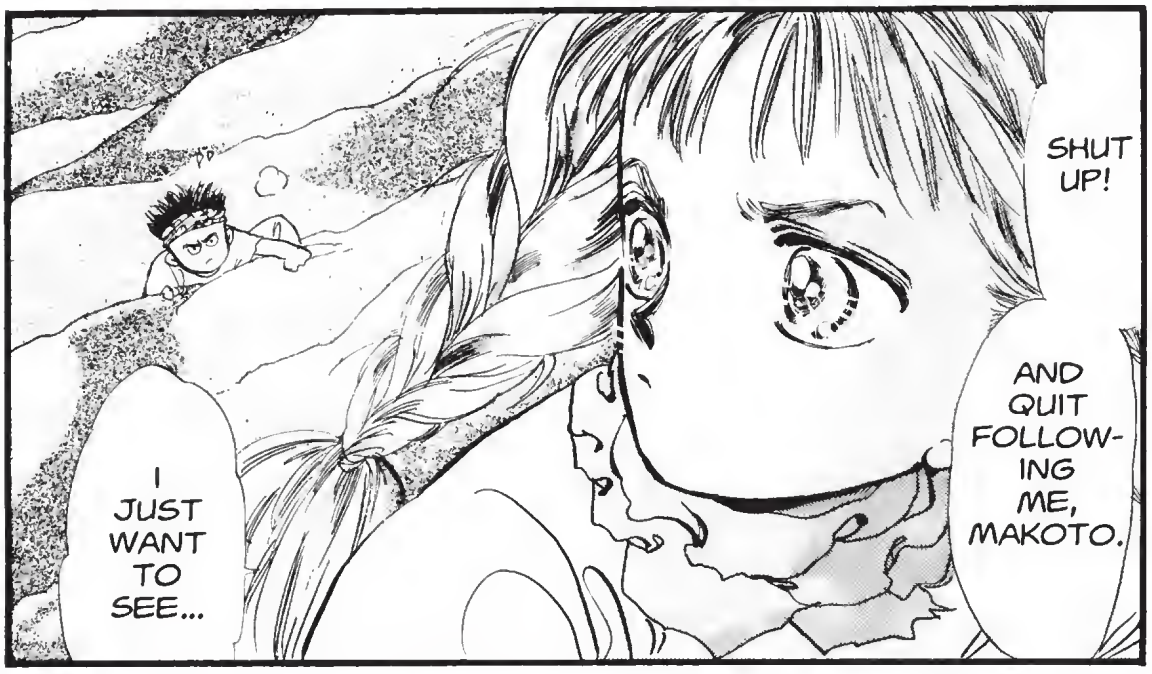
"THIS IS A CHILD OF DESTINY..."

–DECLARED THE PROPHET NAGI ON THE DAY WE WERE BORN–

"...ONE WHO WILL GROW TO LEAD THE PEOPLE AND BE THE LIGHT IN THE SKY OF OUR NATION'S FUTURE."

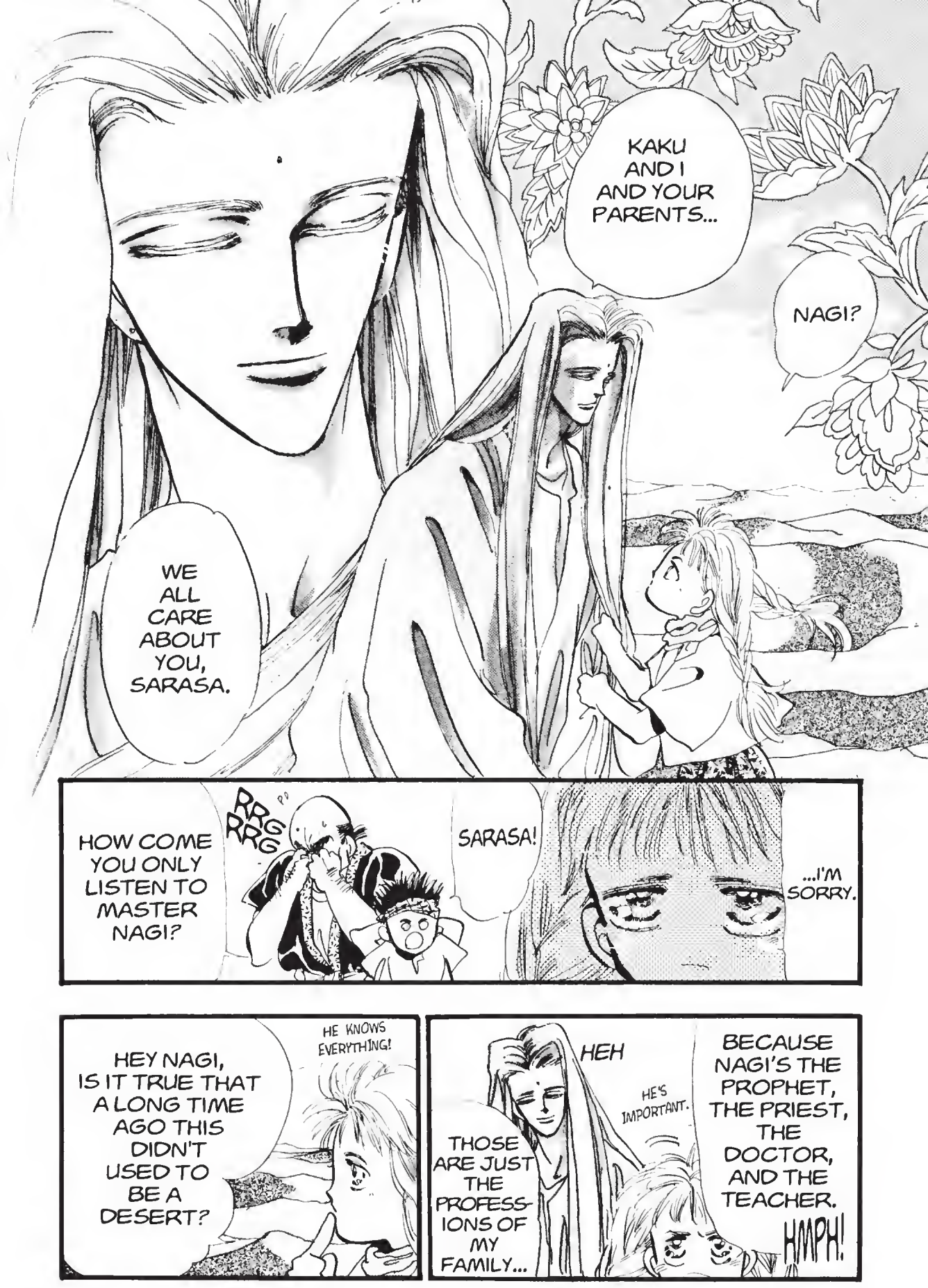
SARASA!
SARASA!
YOU SHOULDN'T GO THAT WAY!
JAPAN

THEY ALWAYS TELL US NOT TO GO IN THE DESERT. SARASA!
HUF HUF

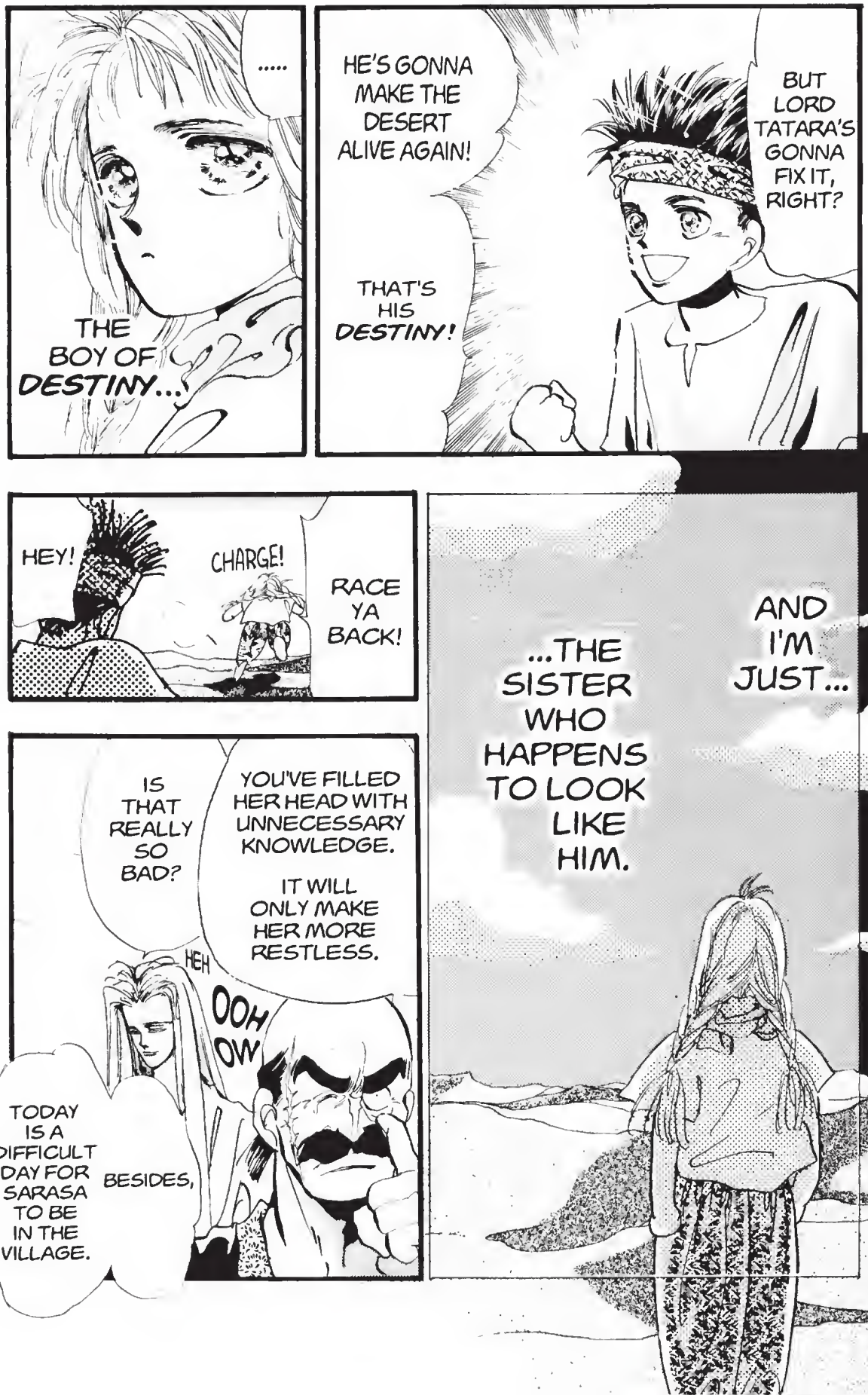

SHUT UP!
AND QUIT FOLLOW-ING ME, MAKOTO.
I JUST WANT TO SEE...

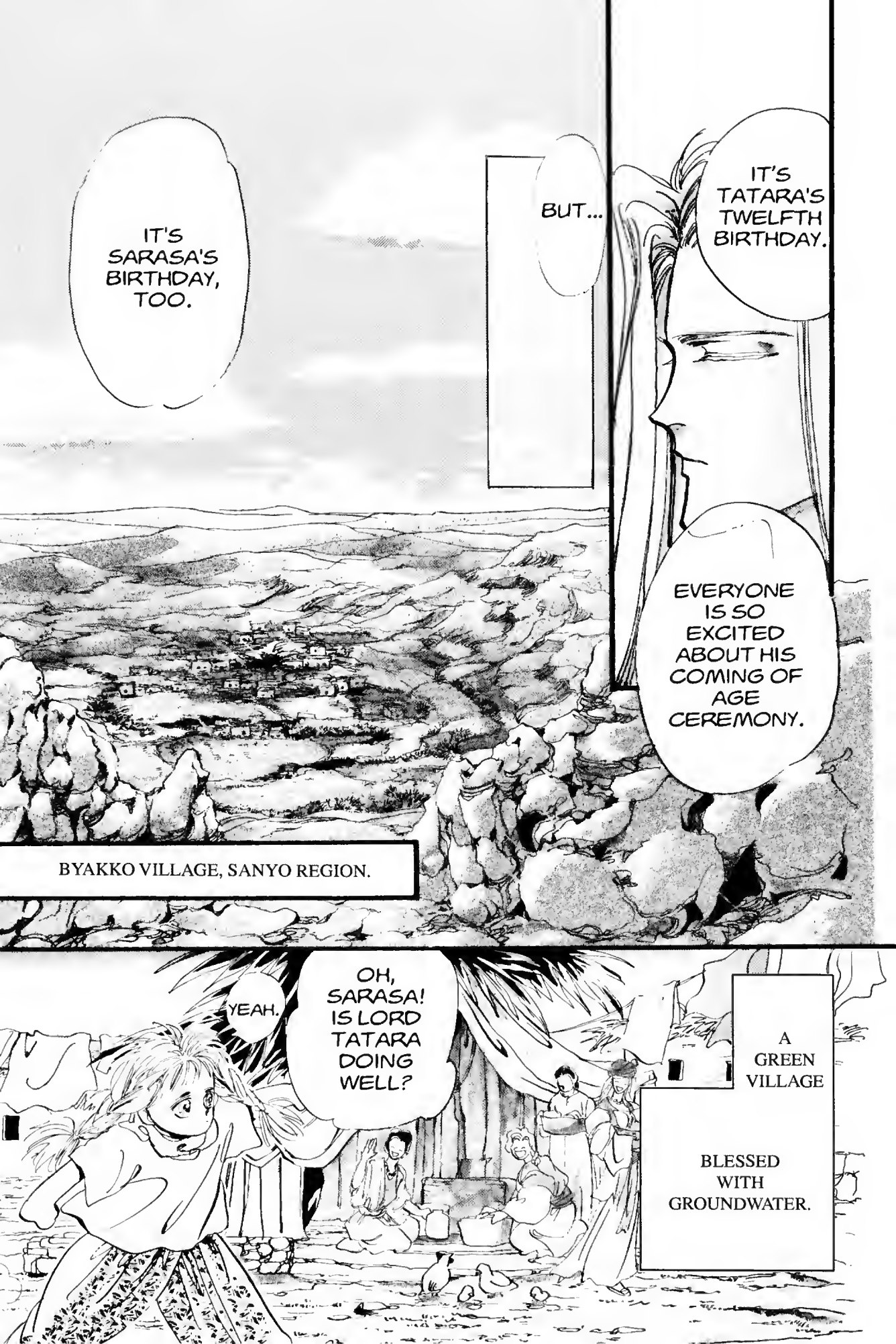
OLD KAKU...
THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND THE SAND.
SHUMP
...WHAT'S OUT THERE, BEYOND THE—
TMF

OOF!
PFF!
WE'RE ALL BUSY PREPARING FOR THE CELEBRATION.
DON'T WORRY US LIKE THIS.
PEOPLE ONLY WORRY ABOUT MY BROTHER.
NOBODY CARES ABOUT ME.
BOF
AH.
AS FEISTY AS EVER.
...IS THE "BOY OF DESTINY."
BECAUSE LORD TATARA...

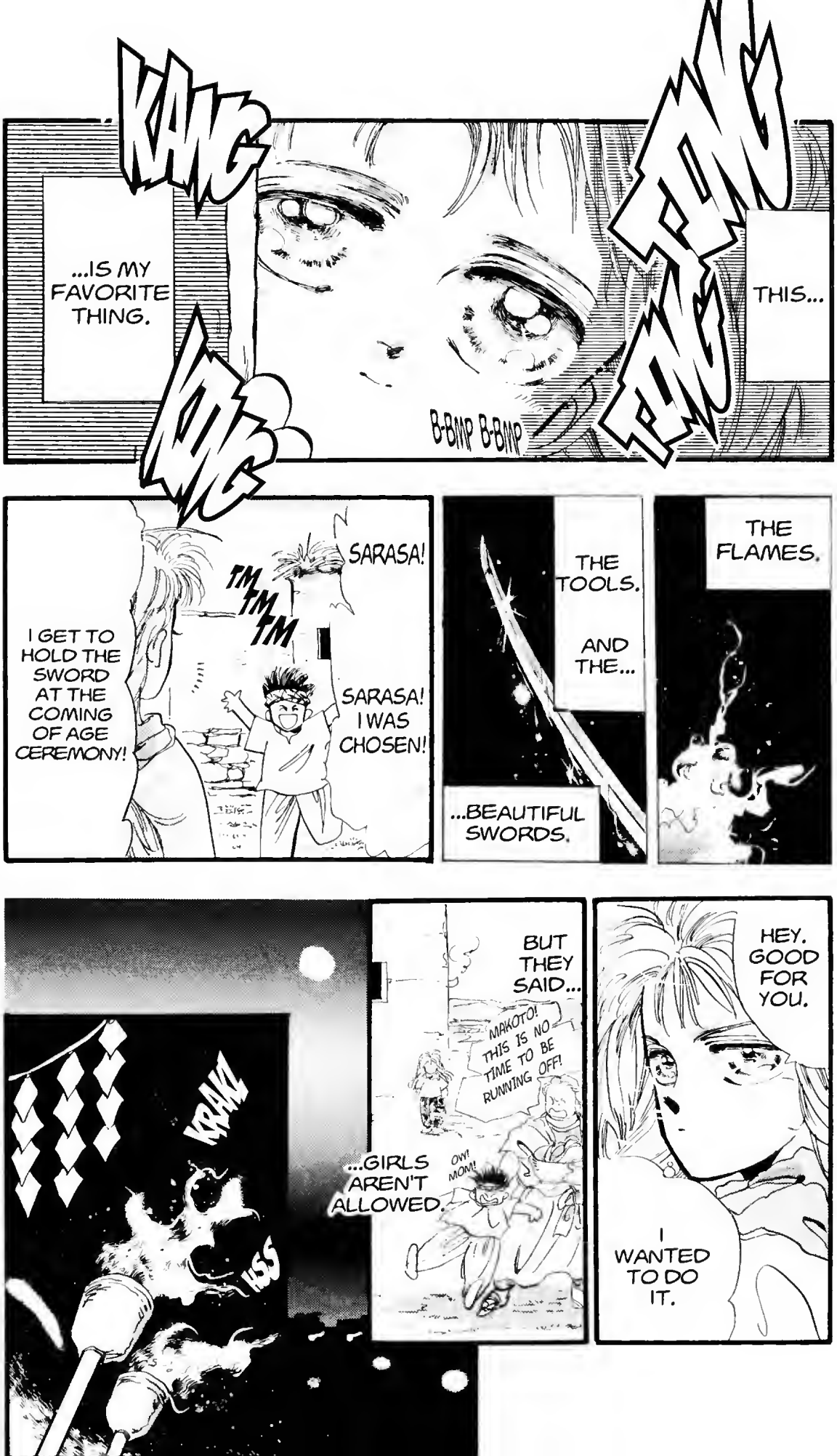

KAKU AND I AND YOUR PARENTS...
NAGI?
WE ALL CARE ABOUT YOU, SARASA.
HOW COME YOU ONLY LISTEN TO MASTER NAGI?
RRG RRG
SARASA!
...I'M SORRY.
HEY NAGI, IS IT TRUE THAT A LONG TIME AGO THIS DIDN'T USED TO BE A DESERT?
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!
HEH
HE'S IMPORTANT.
THOSE ARE JUST THE PROFESSIONS OF MY FAMILY...
BECAUSE NAGI'S THE PROPHET, THE PRIEST, THE DOCTOR, AND THE TEACHER.
HMPH!

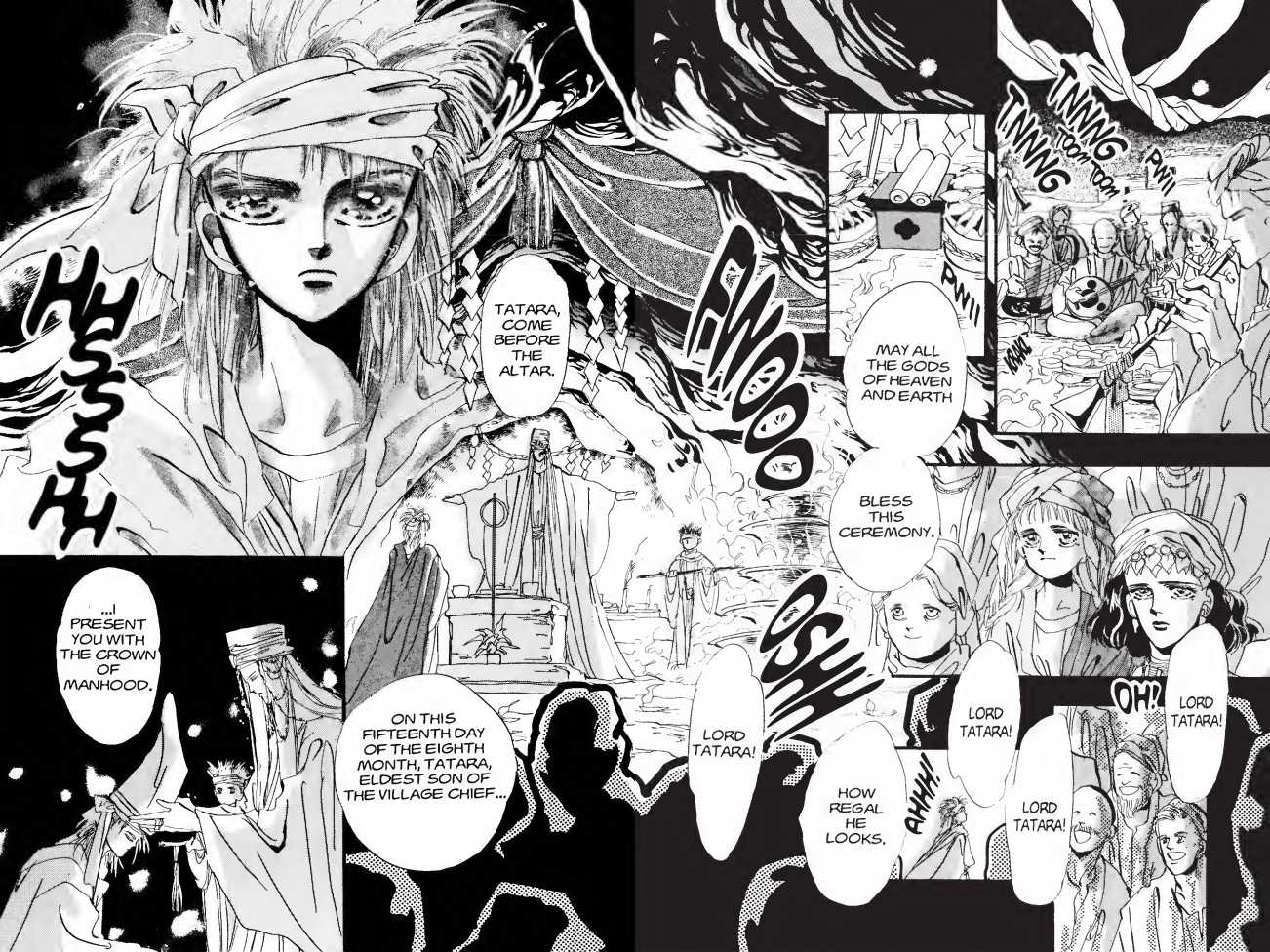
...DID IT ALL TURN TO SAND?
SO WHY...
YES.
LONG, LONG AGO...
ONCE THIS LAND WAS GREEN AND ABUNDANT.
A GREAT CITY THRIVED RIGHT HERE.
IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY,
NO ONE KNOWS THAT.
SOME GREAT CATAS-TROPHE HALTED THE ADVANCE OF CIVILI-ZATION.
EXACTLY, IT IS SAID, AS A VENERABLE PROPHET ONCE PREDICTED.
THERE WERE PEOPLE LIKE YOU BACK THEN, TOO?
HUH?

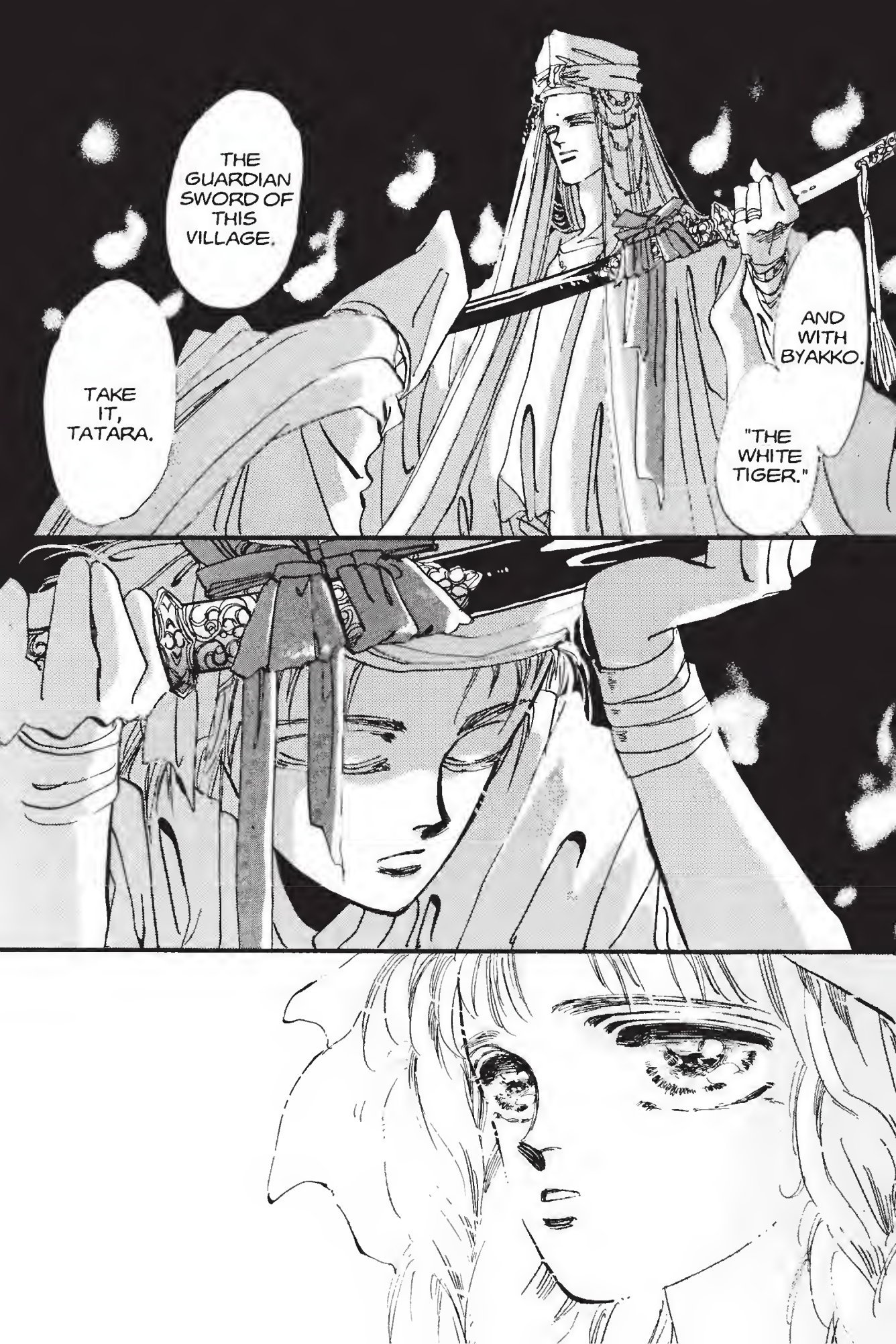

.....
THE BOY OF DESTINY...
HE'S GONNA MAKE THE DESERT ALIVE AGAIN!
THAT'S HIS DESTINY!
BUT LORD TATARA'S GONNA FIX IT, RIGHT?
HEY!
CHARGE!
RACE YA BACK!
AND I'M JUST...
...THE SISTER WHO HAPPENS TO LOOK LIKE HIM.
IS THAT REALLY SO BAD?
YOU'VE FILLED HER HEAD WITH UNNECESSARY KNOWLEDGE.
IT WILL ONLY MAKE HER MORE RESTLESS.
HEH
OOH
OW
TODAY IS A DIFFICULT DAY FOR SARASA TO BE IN THE VILLAGE.
BESIDES,


IT'S TATARA'S TWELFTH BIRTHDAY.
EVERYONE IS SO EXCITED ABOUT HIS COMING OF AGE CEREMONY.
BUT...
IT'S SARASA'S BIRTHDAY, TOO.
BYAKKO VILLAGE, SANYO REGION.
A GREEN VILLAGE
BLESSED WITH GROUNDWATER.
OH, SARASA! IS LORD TATARA DOING WELL?
YEAH.

WE GROW CROPS AND RAISE LIVESTOCK AND MAKE CLOTH.
EXCEPT THE KING TAKES MOST OF IT IN TAXES.
UH-HUH!
SAY HI TO LORD TATARA!
BUK BUK
MOO
VSSH
SARASA! DON'T BOTHER ANYONE. THEY'RE ALL BUSY TODAY!
YES, MOM.
KAWG!
AND ONE MORE THING.
WE'RE A BLACKSMITH VILLAGE.
KNG-KNG
TUNG
TUNG
THERE'S **IRON** IN OUR GROUND.
PEEK
SO HOT...

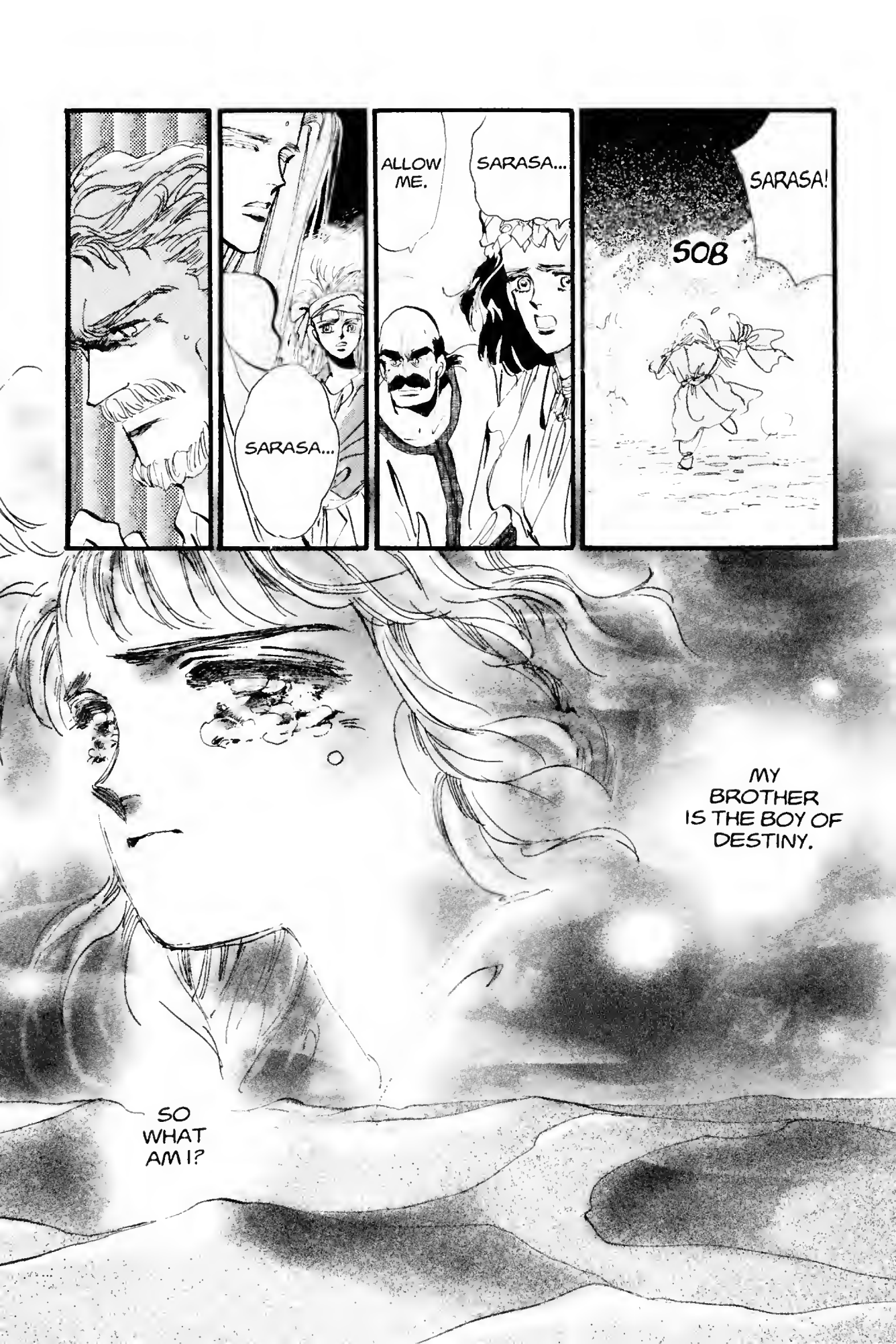

KANG
...IS MY FAVORITE THING.
B-BMP B-BMP
FANG
THIS...
I GET TO HOLD THE SWORD AT THE COMING OF AGE CEREMONY!
TM TM TM
SARASA!
SARASA! I WAS CHOSEN!
THE TOOLS.
AND THE...
...BEAUTIFUL SWORDS.
THE FLAMES.
KRAK
HSS
...GIRLS AREN'T ALLOWED.
BUT THEY SAID...
MAKOTO! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE RUNNING OFF!
OW! MOM!
HEY. GOOD FOR YOU.
I WANTED TO DO IT.


HSSSH
...I PRESENT YOU WITH THE CROWN OF MANHOOD.
ON THIS FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE EIGHTH MONTH, TATARA, ELDEST SON OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF...
TATARA, COME BEFORE THE ALTAR.
BWOOO
OSHH
LORD TATARA!
HOW REGAL HE LOOKS.
MAY ALL THE GODS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH
BLESS THIS CEREMONY.
PWI!
TNNNG
TNNNG
TOM TOM
AHHH!
LORD TATARA!
LORD TATARA!
OH!
LORD TATARA!


THE GUARDIAN SWORD OF THIS VILLAGE.
TAKE IT, TATARA.
AND WITH BYAKKO.
"THE WHITE TIGER."

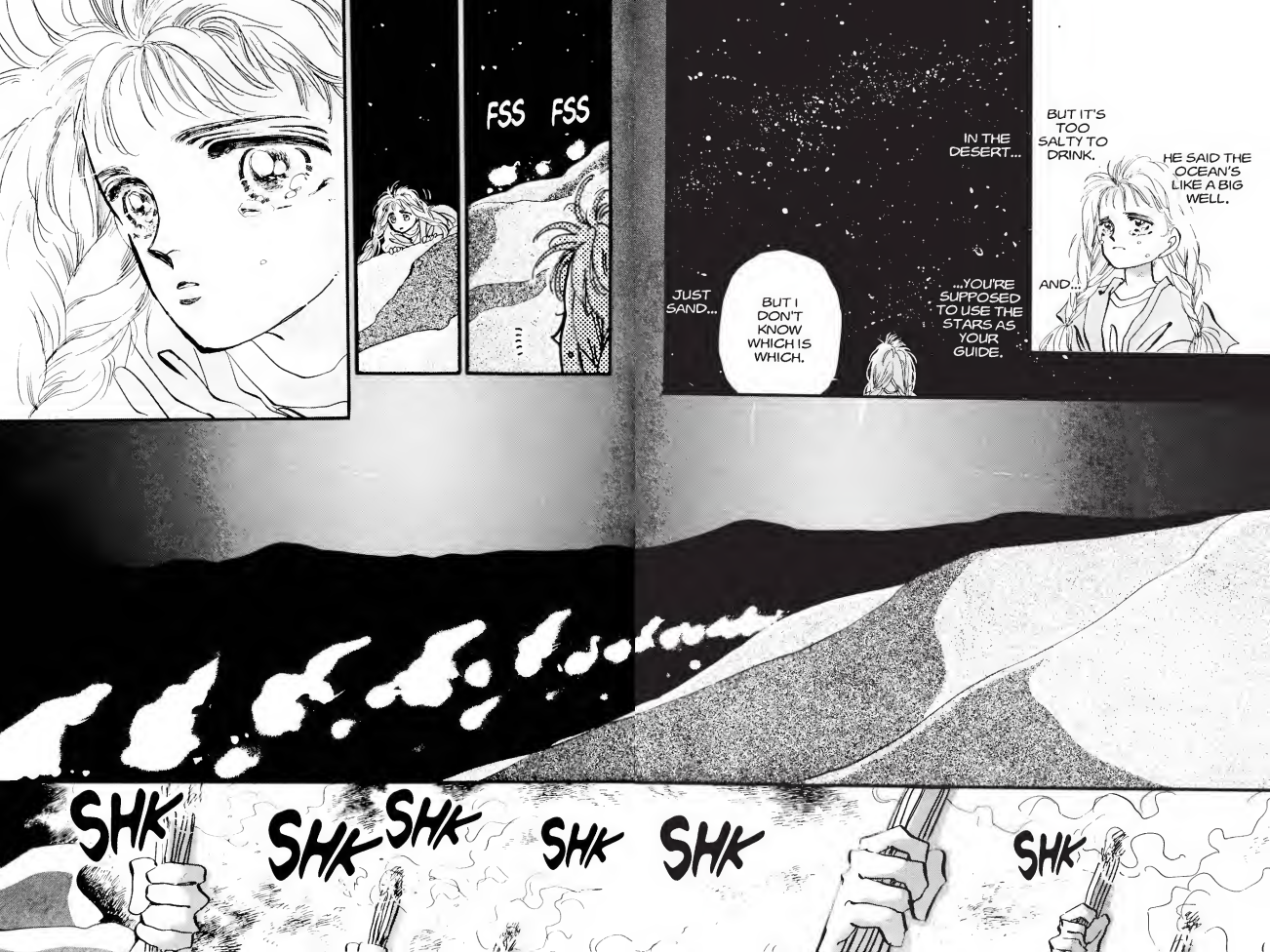
LATER TONIGHT, WE'LL CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY AT HOME.
YAAY
LORD TATARA!
LORD TATARA!
JUST ONCE...
B-BMP B-BMP
IF I COULD TOUCH IT...
B-BMP B-BMP
URK!
SARASA!
THE VILLAGE WILL BE SAVED!
YAY!
YAY!
AND THE WHOLE COUNTRY!
300 YEARS OF TYRANNY
WILL BE OVER-THROWN!
TATARA, TAKE THIS GOBLET.

BA-
WHO
DON'T TOUCH IT!!
...SAVED IT FOR THE BOY OF DESTINY!
GENER-ATION AFTER GENER-ATION...
NO FEMALE HAND WILL DEFILE IT!
DADDY...
THAT IS FOR TATARA!

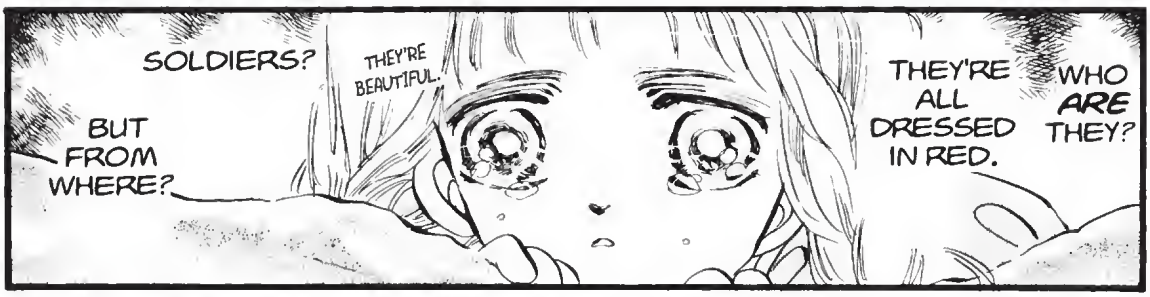

SARASA...
ALLOW ME.
SARASA...
SARASA!
SOB
MY BROTHER IS THE BOY OF DESTINY.
SO WHAT AM I?

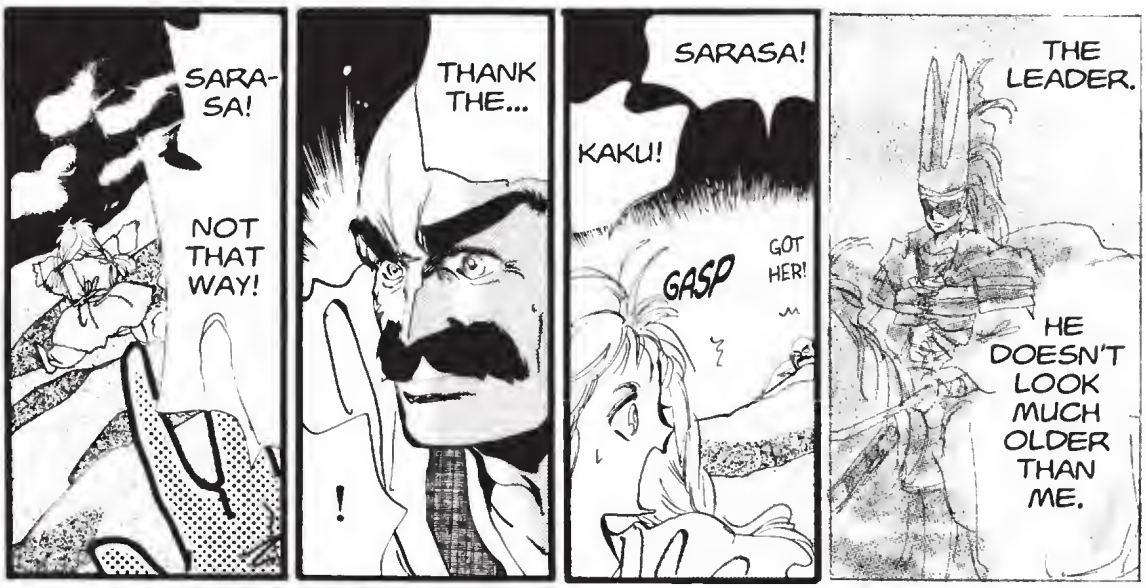
JUST SCRAPS?
SOME UNWANTED EXTRA?
WHY DID WE HAVE TO BE TWINS?
WHY?
SNIF
SNIF
SNIF
AAAAHHHH...
AAAHHH...
AH-CHOO!

JUST SAND...
SNIF SNIF
NAGI TOLD ME THAT DESERT NIGHTS ARE COLD.
HE SAID IF YOU KEEP GOING AND GOING...
...YOU'LL REACH THE OCEAN.
IS NO ONE OUT THERE?


FSS FSS
BUT IT'S TOO SALTY TO DRINK.
HE SAID THE OCEAN'S LIKE A BIG WELL.
AND...
IN THE DESERT...
...YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO USE THE STARS AS YOUR GUIDE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS WHICH.
JUST SAND...
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK

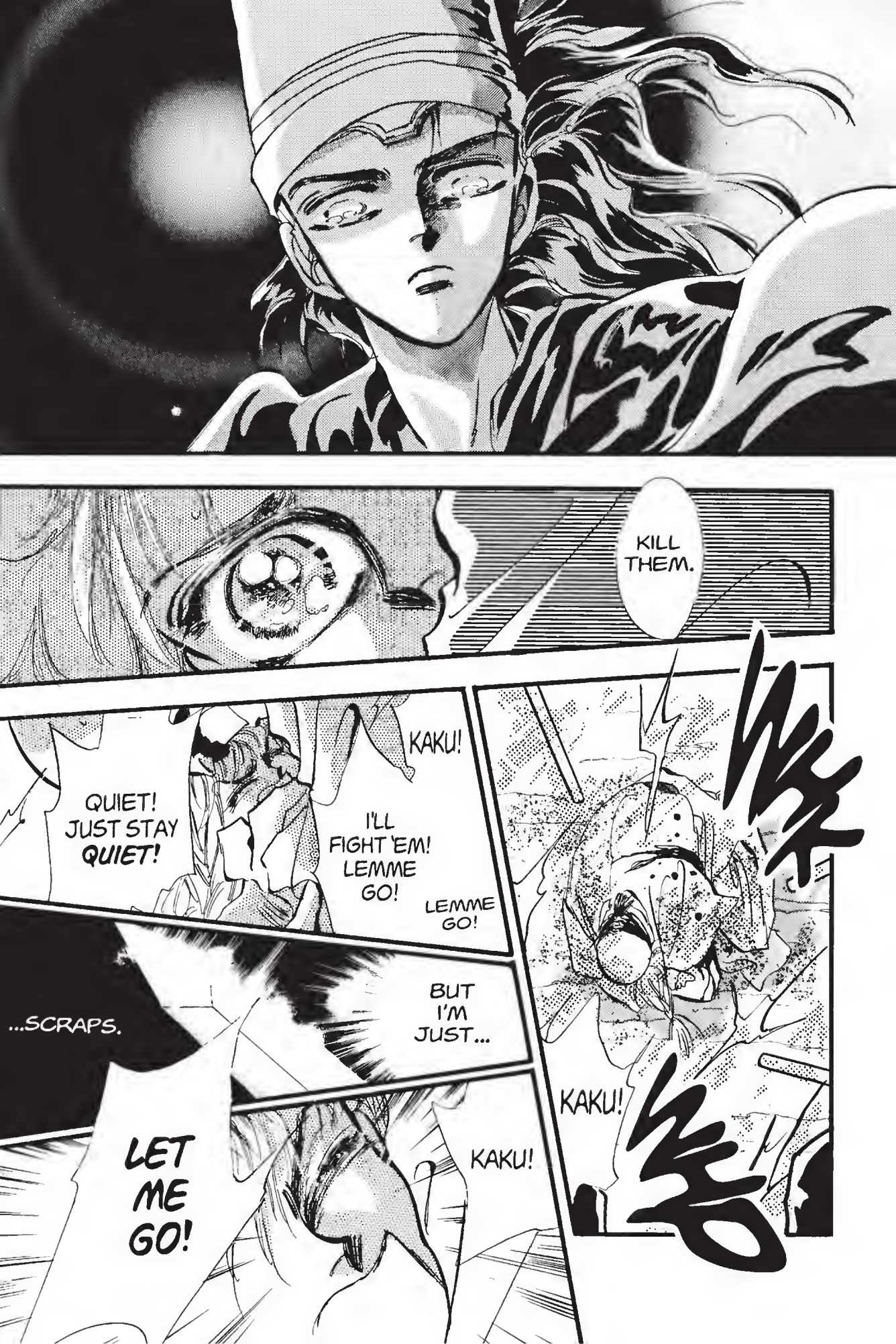
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK


SOLDIERS?
BUT FROM WHERE?
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.
THEY'RE ALL DRESSED IN RED.
WHO ARE THEY?


SARA-SA!
NOT THAT WAY!
THANK THE...
!
SARASA!
KAKU!
GASP
GOT HER!
THE LEADER.
HE DOESN'T LOOK MUCH OLDER THAN ME.

WHO DARES CROSS BEFORE THE RED KING!?
HHF HHF
SARASA!

P-
PLEASE...
SHE
IS A
CHILD.
FOR-
GIVE
HER...
KAKU!

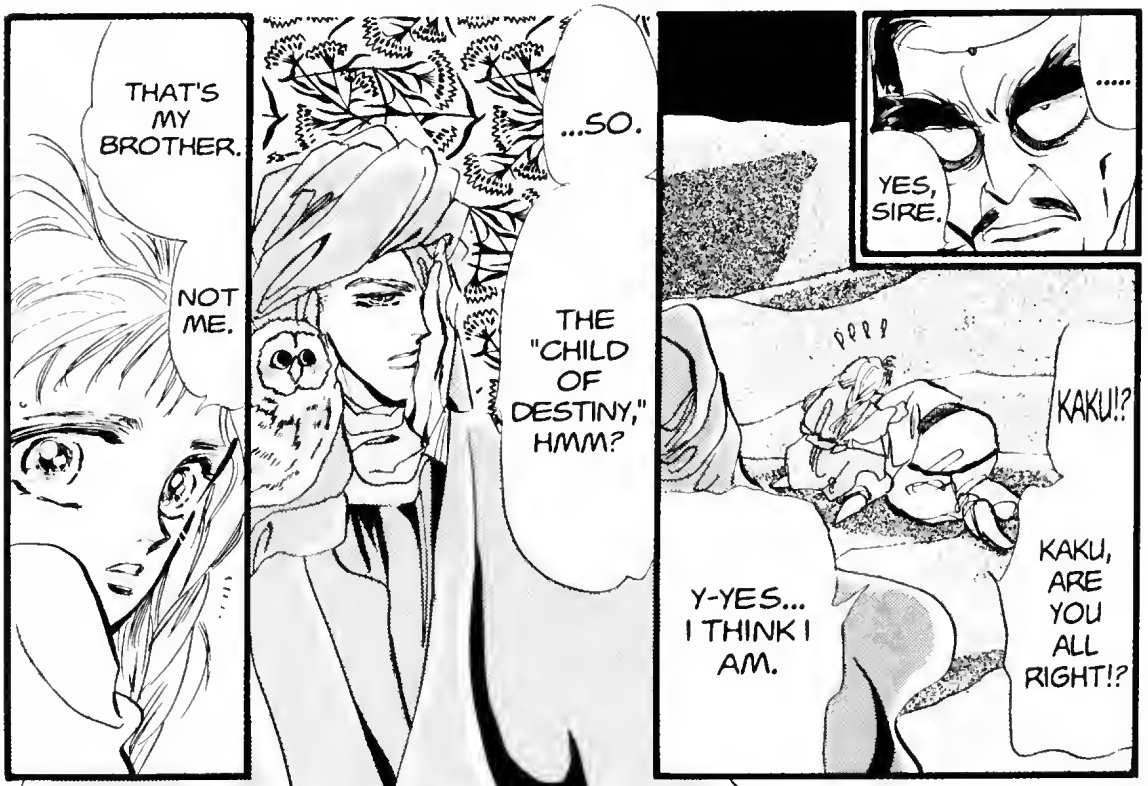

KILL THEM.
KAKU!
QUIET! JUST STAY *QUIET!*
I'LL FIGHT 'EM! LEMME GO!
LEMME GO!
KAKU!
BUT I'M JUST...
...SCRAPS.
KAKU!
LET ME GO!

STAY YOUR HAND.
RED KING, YOUNGEST SON OF THE KING.
YOUR NAME WILL BE TARNISHED.
SHF
SHF
BSSH

YOUR NAME?
CHNG
YOUR EYE WILL PAY FOR YOUR INSOLENCE.
AGEHA. "THE BUTTER-FLY."

SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK

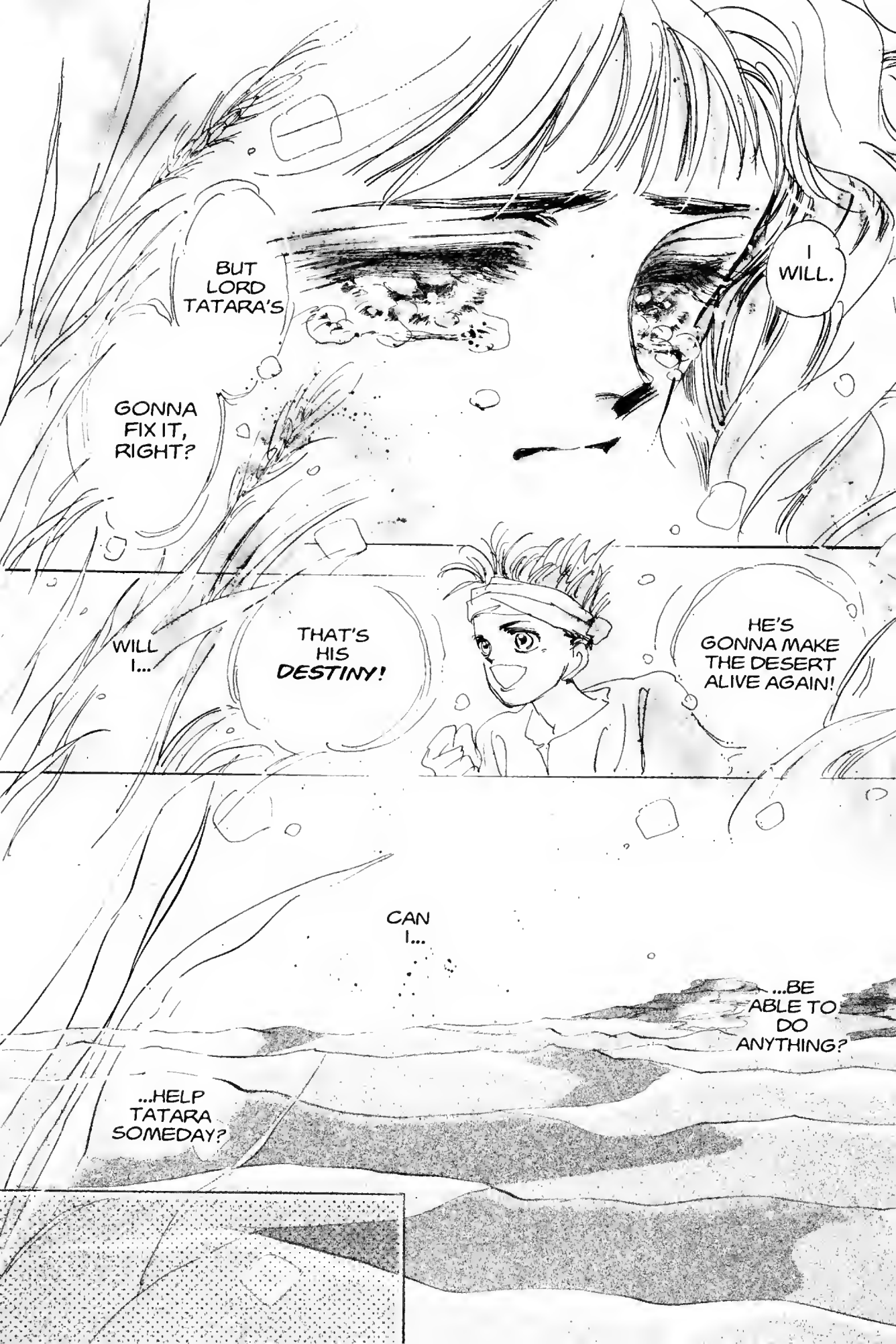
DO NOT OVERSTEP YOURSELF, ASHO.
SHOWING MERCY MAY BE DANGER-OUS.
SHK
SHK
HIS IS A DIFFI-CULT CLAN TO DEAL WITH.
SIRE, THAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE ONE CALLED THE "BLUE NOBLE OF THE DESERT."

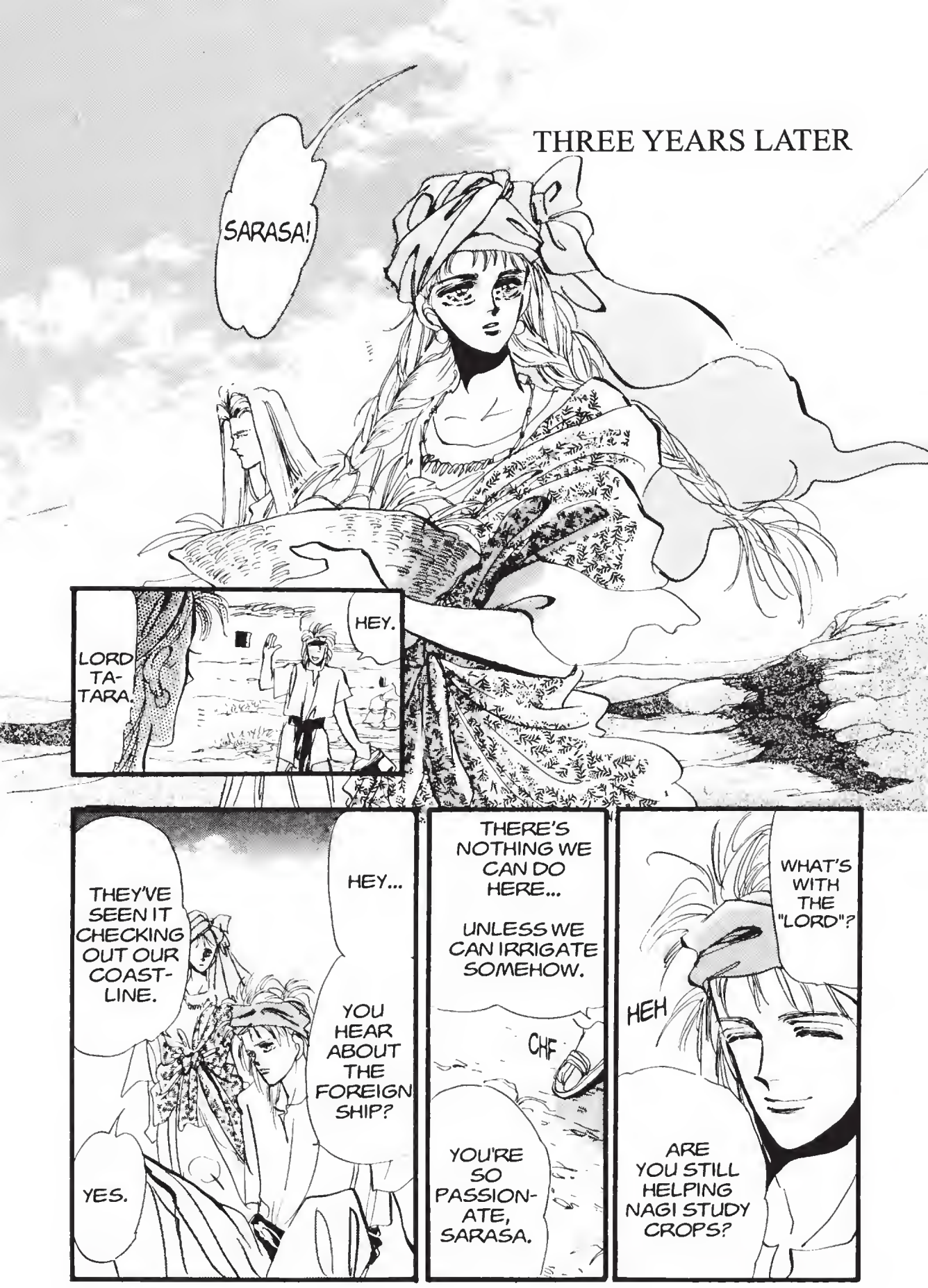

THAT'S MY BROTHER.
NOT ME.
...SO.
THE "CHILD OF DESTINY," HMM?
.....
YES, SIRE.
KAKU!?
KAKU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
Y-YES... I THINK I AM.

I'LL LICK MY OWN WOUNDS.
UM... YOU'RE HURT...
ODD.
MY INTUITION IS RARELY WRONG.
HEY... THANK YOU...
HE'LL LICK HIS EYE!?
AGEHA...
DOWN
THERE ARE PEOPLE ALL OVER THIS LAND WHO PLACE THEIR HOPES IN HIS HANDS.
WELL, GIVE HIM A MESSAGE FROM ME.
NO!
NO!
WHAT HAPPENED?
HUH?
BY THE GODS!
SOBBB
OHHH
OHHH

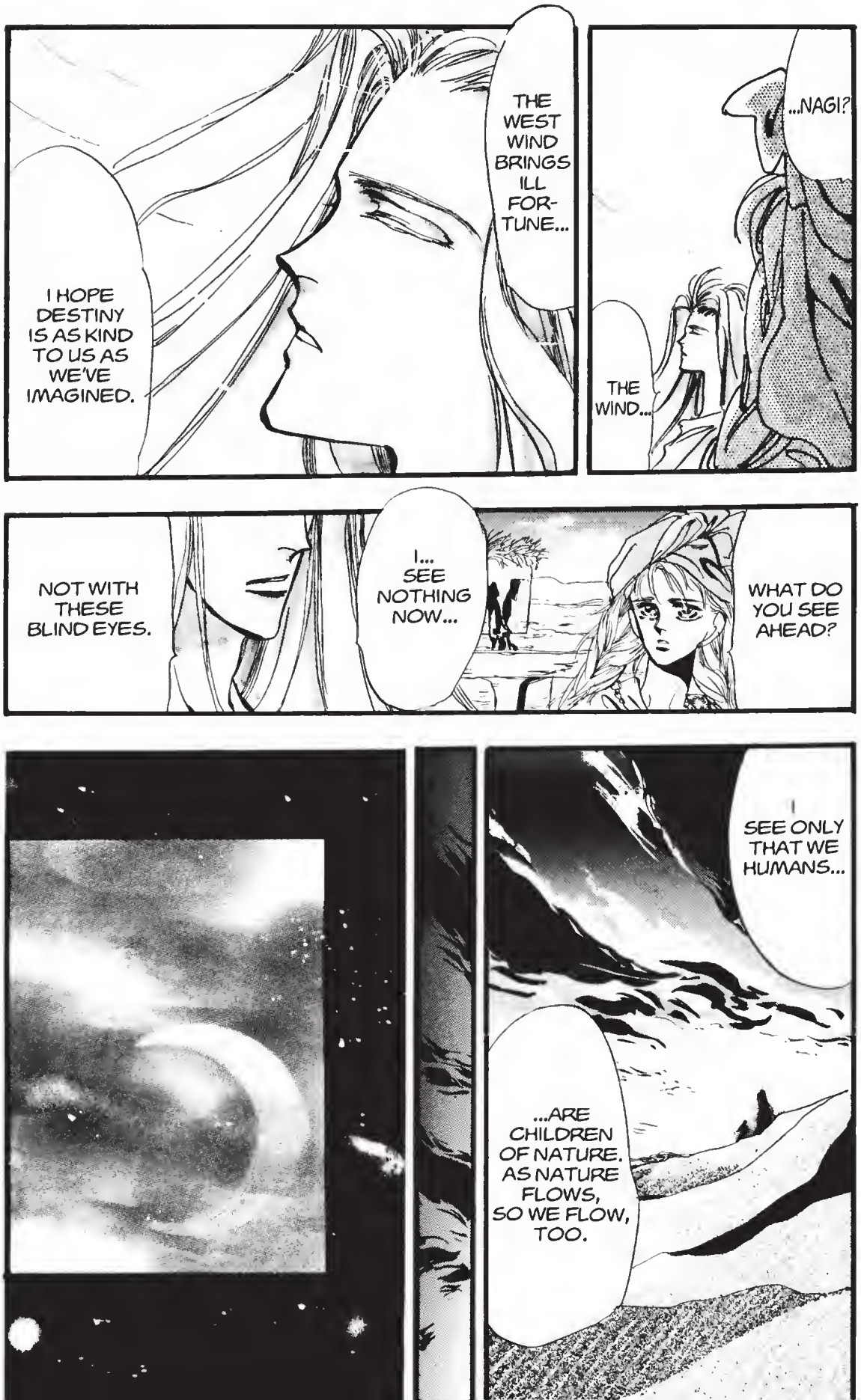
OH, SARASA, IT WAS TERRIBLE!
THE RED KING'S ARMY STRUCK!
THEY SAID WE WERE PLOTTING A REBELLION!
THEY DEMANDED OUR SWORDS... AND LORD TATARA!
MAKOTO TOLD THEM HE WAS LORD TATARA.
MAKOTO!
THE SOL-DIERS...
AND...
AND...
HE...
HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE...
...FOR ALL OF US.
MA-KO-TO-

YOU'LL DESTROY THE KING! AND THE DESERT!
HOW...
TATARA!
YOU'RE GOING TO FREE THIS COUNTRY SOME DAY!
NOT AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, MY LORD!
FOR ME...
HIS DEATH WON'T BE IN VAIN, LORD TATARA!
...OF TATARA?
...CAN THEY ASK...
HOW MUCH...
WITH EACH TURN OF THE WIND,
YOU MUST NOT BREAK.
YOU MUST LEARN TO BEND.
SAR-ASA.
YES?
WHAT'S A SAILOR?
SNIF
I'M SORRY, KAKU.
BUT IT SURE HURTS.
I WAS A SAILOR IN MY YOUTH.
I'VE HAD WORSE.


BUT LORD TATARA'S
I WILL.
GONNA FIX IT, RIGHT?
WILL I...
THAT'S HIS DESTINY!
HE'S GONNA MAKE THE DESERT ALIVE AGAIN!
CAN I...
...BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING?
...HELP TATARA SOMEDAY?


THREE YEARS LATER
SARASA!
LORD TA-TARA.
HEY.
THEY'VE SEEN IT CHECKING OUT OUR COAST-LINE.
HEY...
YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FOREIGN SHIP?
YES.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE...
UNLESS WE CAN IRRIGATE SOMEHOW.
CHF
YOU'RE SO PASSION-ATE, SARASA.
WHAT'S WITH THE "LORD"?
HEH
ARE YOU STILL HELPING NAGI STUDY CROPS?

SAR-ASA.
YES?
I'VE BEEN TALKING TO PEOPLE IN OTHER VILLAGES ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER.
SO I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO LEAVE HERE SOMEDAY.
THIS COUNTRY CAN'T DEFEND ITSELF WITH ITS OLD WAYS.
SOONER OR LATER, WE'LL BE INVADED.
PROMISE ME
YOU'LL PROTECT OUR PARENTS AND THE VILLAGERS...
...WHEN I'M NOT HERE.
HE GROWS NOBLER EVERY DAY, DOESN'T HE, NAGI?
LORD TATARA, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR SWORD LESSON.
COMING!
GOOD LUCK!
I PROMISE, TATARA.
I WILL.


I HOPE DESTINY IS AS KIND TO US AS WE'VE IMAGINED.
THE WEST WIND BRINGS ILL FOR-TUNE...
...NAGI?
THE WIND...
NOT WITH THESE BLIND EYES.
I... SEE NOTHING NOW...
WHAT DO YOU SEE AHEAD?
I SEE ONLY THAT WE HUMANS...
...ARE CHILDREN OF NATURE. AS NATURE FLOWS, SO WE FLOW, TOO.

DM DM DM DM DM
DM DM
DM DM DM DM
DM DM DM
DM DM

DA DA DA DA
A MESSAGE TO THE VILLAGERS OF BYAKKO, WHO PLOT A REBELLION AGAINST THE KING!
BRING OUT THIS SO-CALLED "BOY OF DESTINY" AND THE SWORD, BYAKKO, IMMEDIATELY!
DA DA DA DA
AND NO IMPOSTORS THIS TIME!
DA DA DA DA
OR WE WILL KILL YOU ALL!!

BRING ME TATARA'S HEAD!
KRIK
DM DM
FSSSH
AG
A!
IT'S THE RED ARMY!
DMDMDM
KSSSH
THEY WILL SHOW NO MERCY TO WOMEN OR CHILDREN!
STAY HIDDEN, SARASA!
WFF
NAGI!
DMDMDM
EEEE
DMDMDMDMDM
DMDM
NO!
FSHH
YAAA
RUN!
DON'T- DON'T KILL ME!
DM
DM
DM
IN THE BASEMENT STOREHOUSE WITH YOUR PARENTS.
WHERE'S TATARA!?

THERE!!
HE'S HIDING UNDER-GROUND!
DRAG HIM OUT!
NOOO!
TATARA!
LORD TATARA!
VILLAGERS!
TATARA!
OBSERVE!
VSSH
BROTHER!!

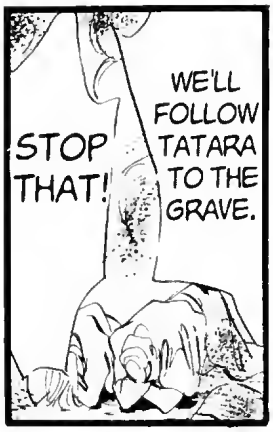
TA
LOOK!
TA
HA-
HA!
GENERAL KAZAN HAS TAKEN THE BOY OF DESTINY'S HEAD!
RA!!
BURN THE VILLAGE DOWN!
WE'LL TAKE THE BRAT'S HEAD AND SWORD.
LORD TATARA!
GYAAA
NO!
HSSSS
SPARE THE VILLAG-ERS!
PLEASE!
SIRE!
PLEASE, SIRE!

DADDY!
THE SAME ONE...
THE GODS! CHIEF!
MY LOVE!
THAT BOY...

THE RED KING!

BURN THEM ALL!
SUR-ROUND THE VILLAGE! LET NO ONE ESCAPE!

BURN THEM!
WHOOSH
KRR


STOP THAT!
WE'LL FOLLOW TATARA TO THE GRAVE.

NO!
THERE'S NO HOPE!
GET UP! WE'VE GOT TO RUN!
BB

YAAAA
EEE

NAGI.
AAAA
LET ME DIE HERE.
WE'VE GOT TO TRY!
LET ME GO!
OH
GET UP, FOOL!
YAAA
...I DO?
NAGI.
WHAT...
WHAT SHOULD...
LIVE!
EVEN IF ONLY ONE OF US MAKES IT, SOMEONE MUST SURVIVE!
RUN!
DON'T GIVE UP!
TATARA!?
SARASA.
TATARA?

...YOU'LL PROTECT THE VILLAGERS...
PROMISE ME...
...WHEN I'M NOT HERE.
I...
I WILL, TATARA.
I WILL.

WE MUST RALLY EVERY-ONE.
SARASA, STAY HERE.
NAGI.
...GOING.
I'M...
SARASA!?
SHUMP
FSSHHH

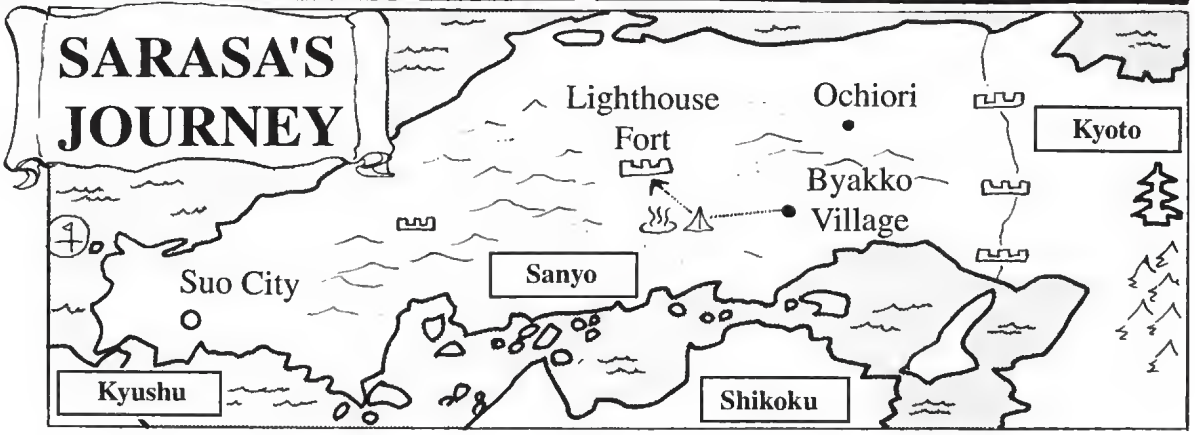
GET UP! RUN!!
HAK
KOF
IT'S HOPE-LESS.
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO DIE!
WE'RE SURROUNDED.
WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE...
T-
!
LORD TATARA!?
TA...

MY SISTER WAS KILLED.
BROTHER...
SARASA IS DEAD.
OHH
ALL WHO WOULD SEE THE FALL OF THE KING...
...PROTECT ME!
M-MASTER NAGI...
ISN'T THAT...?
...FOLLOW ME!
WE'RE GOING THROUGH!

TATARA WAS THE SACRIFICE.
NOW...
I SEE WHAT I COULD NOT.
YOU ARE THE ONE.
SARASA.
YOU ARE THE ONE.
THE CHILD OF DESTINY!

SCARLET TALE 2: TATARA'S SHADOW

TATARA STANDS BEFORE YOU!
FOLLOW ME!
WE SHALL SURVIVE!!
IT'S...
SARASA!
SHE'S BECOME TATARA...
SHE'S THE CHILD OF DESTINY!

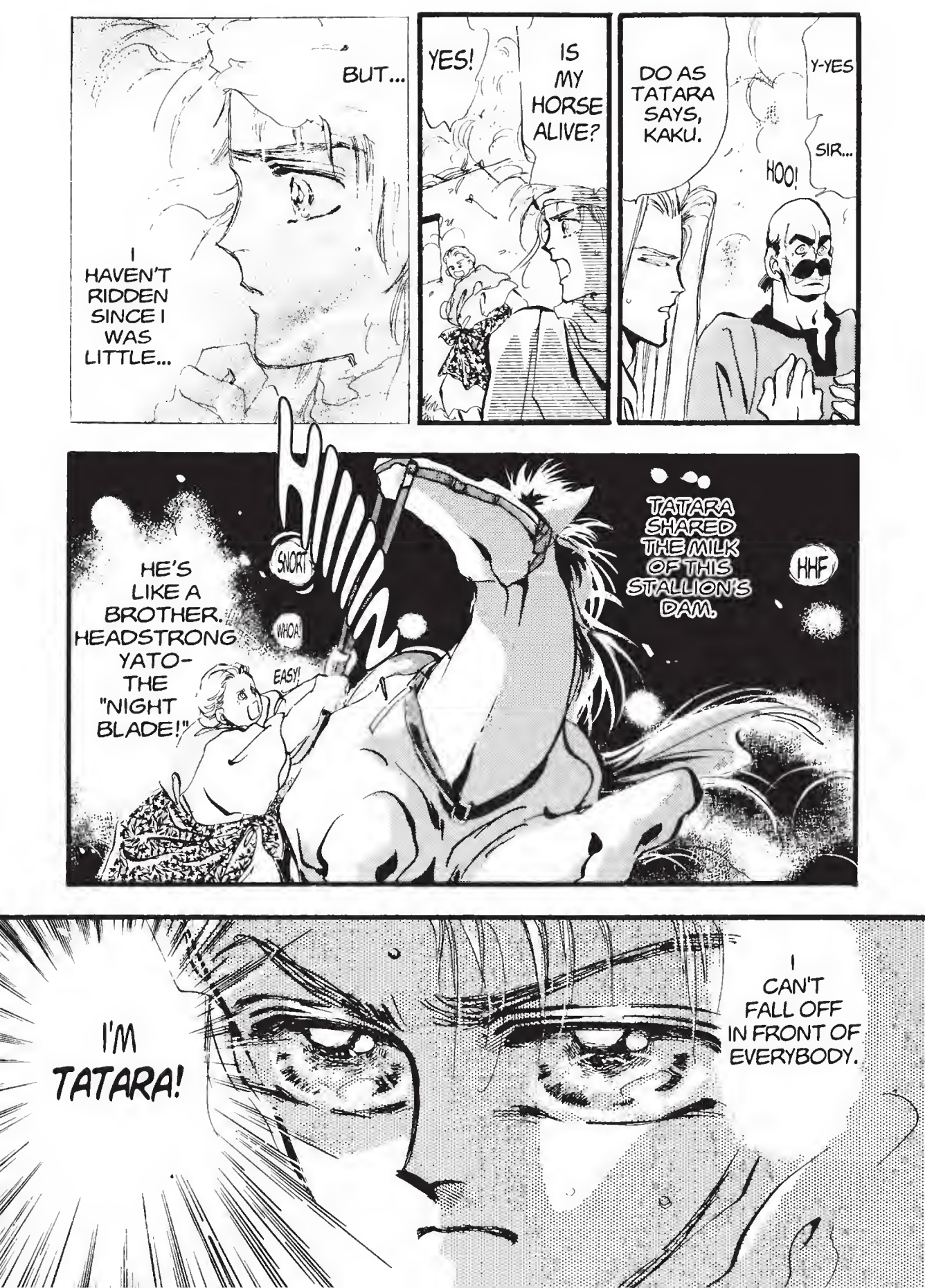

SARASA'S JOURNEY
Lighthouse Fort
Ochiori
Kyoto
Byakko Village
Suo City
Sanyo
Kyushu
Shikoku

I'LL PROTECT THEM!
I PROMISE YOU, TATARA!
AS LONG AS I CAN.
YAAA
LORD TATARA!
AAAA
LORD TATARA!
LORD TATARA!

FTT
FTT
FIRE!
KILL THEM!
FTT
THP
THP
THP
AAA!
BUT MY LORD-
THE RED KING'S FORCES SURROUND THE VILLAGE!
LEAVE NO REBEL ALIVE!

GRAND-PA...
IF I STAY IN BED, I'LL DIE.
FOOL!
ELDER!
KOF KOF
YOU MUSTN'T GET OUT OF BED...
IT'S STILL A TAD EARLY FOR THAT.
FIRST.
WE MUST DESTROY THE VILLAGE.
WE SET SOME GUNPOWDER IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR JUST SUCH A CASE.
TATARA, WE MUST OBLITER-ATE ALL RECORDS
OF ALL OUR COMMUNI-CATIONS WITH OTHER REBEL VILLAGES.
YES...
TATARA...
...OBLITER-ATE TATARA'S CORPSE AS WELL.
WE MUST...
Y-YES, BUT...
UNDER-STAND, KAKU?
KOF

THE MOUNTAIN PASSAGES ARE TREACHEROUS. THE ENEMY WILL NOT HAVE MANNED THEM AS HEAVILY. GET EVERYONE OUT THAT WAY, THEN SET THE GUNPOWDER!
BUT HOW WILL WE GET THERE...?
YES...
KAKU!
YES SIR!
BROTHER.
FATHER.
WE MUST LEAVE YOU HERE...
I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT!
I WILL RIDE OUT THE FRONT...
DON'T INTER-RUPT ME!
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!
...TO DIS-TRACT THEM.


BUT...
I HAVEN'T RIDDEN SINCE I WAS LITTLE...
YES!
IS MY HORSE ALIVE?
DO AS TATARA SAYS, KAKU.
Y-YES SIR...
HOO!
HE'S LIKE A BROTHER. HEADSTRONG YATO- THE "NIGHT BLADE!"
SNORT
WHOA!
EASY!
TATARA SHARED THE MILK OF THIS STALLION'S DAM.
HHF
I'M TATARA!
I CAN'T FALL OFF IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY.

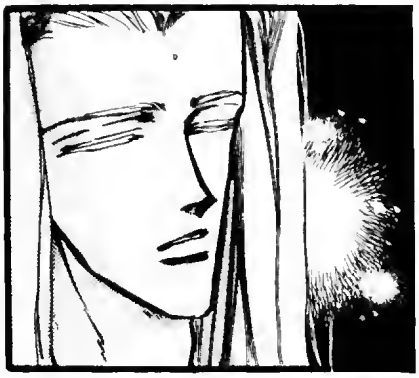
YOUR LEGS ARE FASTER THAN ANY STEED OF THE RED KING.
YATO.
TAKE CARE OF TATARA FOR ME.
NAGI?
SHH
TAKE CARE...
...OF TATARA.
MAKOTO'S MOTHER...
GO RUN YOUR HEART OUT, BOY!
PAP
HE'LL BE FINE. I'VE BEEN GETTIN' HIM READY FOR A DAY JUST LIKE THIS!

YES! YES!
LORD TATARA!
LORD TATARA!
TATA-RA.
SARA-SA.
TUG
SWISH
NOW HANG ON TIGHT.
YOU MUST ONLY EVADE THEM.
SNORT
DON'T LET YOUR PASSION SEND YOU CHARGING INTO THEIR MIDST.
...CANNOT PROTECT THE LIVES OF OTHERS.
THOSE WHO DO NOT VALUE THEIR OWN LIVES...
TRUST YATO.
HORSES TRUST THOSE WHO TRUST THEM.

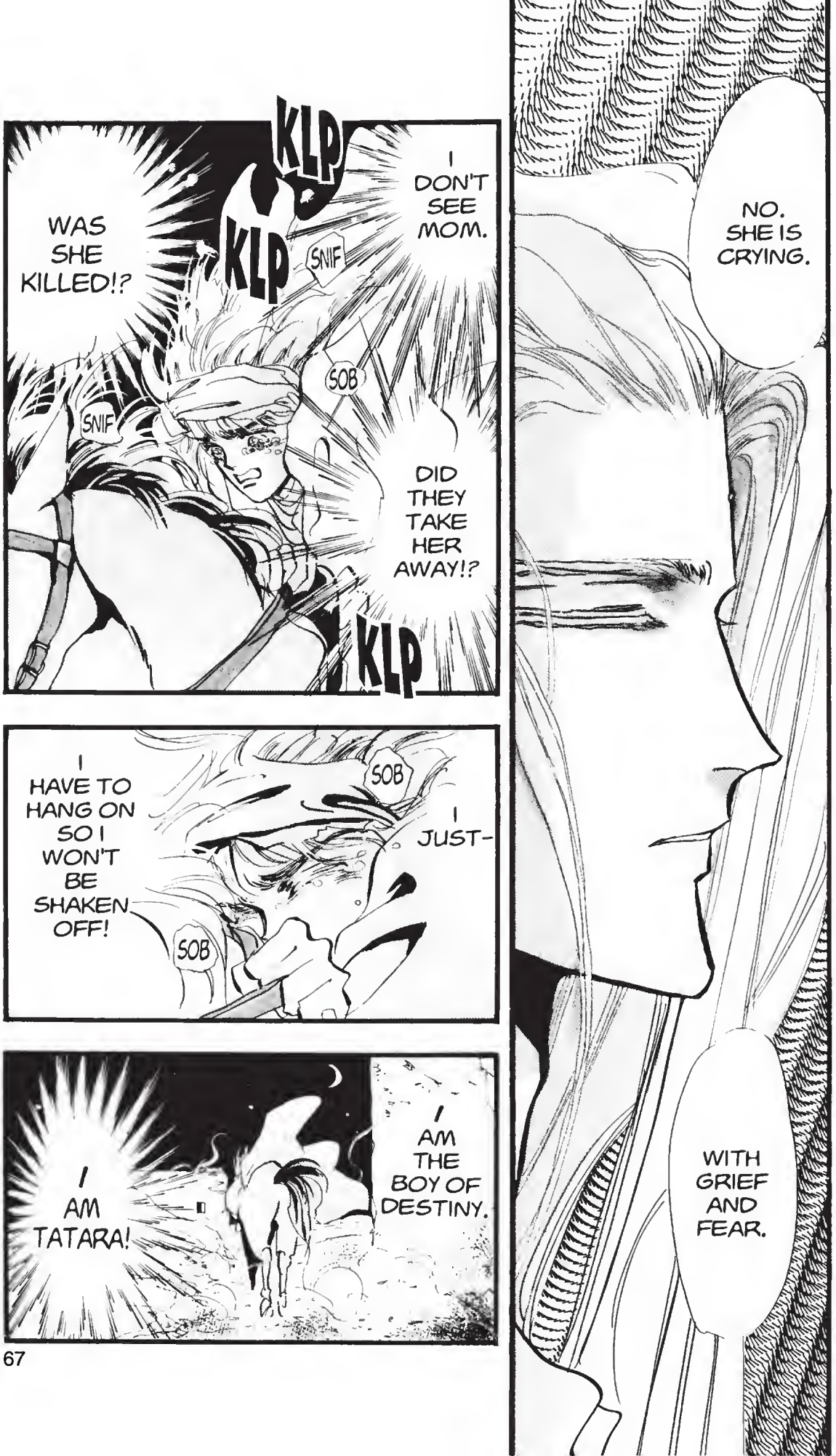
JUST LIKE MY MOTHER.
YOU'RE A NAG, NAGI.

I THINK SHE'S SMILING JUST TO PUT EVERYONE ELSE AT EASE.
DID YOU SEE HER?
OH. RIGHT. SORRY.
SHE SMILED...?

HE WAS SMILING!
OHH!
WE'LL BE SAVED!
KLP
KLP KLP
WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



KLP
KAKU!
GET THEM INTO THE MOUN-TAINS!
TAKE CARE OF EVERY-ONE!


NO. SHE IS CRYING.
WITH GRIEF AND FEAR.
I DON'T SEE MOM.
KLP
KLP
SNIF
WAS SHE KILLED!?
SOB
SNIF
DID THEY TAKE HER AWAY!?
KLP
I HAVE TO HANG ON SO I WON'T BE SHAKEN OFF!
SOB
I JUST-
SOB
I AM TATARA!
I AM THE BOY OF DESTINY.

I GUESS THERE WAS STILL SOMEONE WITH SOME BACKBONE IN THERE.
GENERAL KAZAN!
A HORSE AND RIDER ARE COMING OUT!
THE ONE WHO SHOOTS HIM DOWN WILL...
TAKE AIM!
KLP
KLP
KLP
EH...?
.....
TATARA!?

TATARA!?
I THOUGHT THE GENERAL CUT OFF HIS HEAD!
DM DM DM
THE BOY OF DESTINY IS ALIVE!?
LET'S GO!
BUT SLOW! WATCH FOR ARROWS! KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN!
TATARA'S NAME ALONE PROVIDES A POTENT DECOY.
FINE, FINE! I DIDN'T ASK FOR A SERMON!
"GOD TEMPERS THE WIND TO THE SHORN LAMB."
HEAVEN SHOWS MERCY TO THOSE WHO SHOW MERCY.
HOW CAN YOU STAY SO CALM?
THIS IS KILLING ME!

HEAD FOR THE MOUN-TAINS!
LEAVE THIS TO ME!
HEY!
THE VILLAGERS ARE ESCAPING!
MAS-TER NAGI!
OH!
GOT YOU!

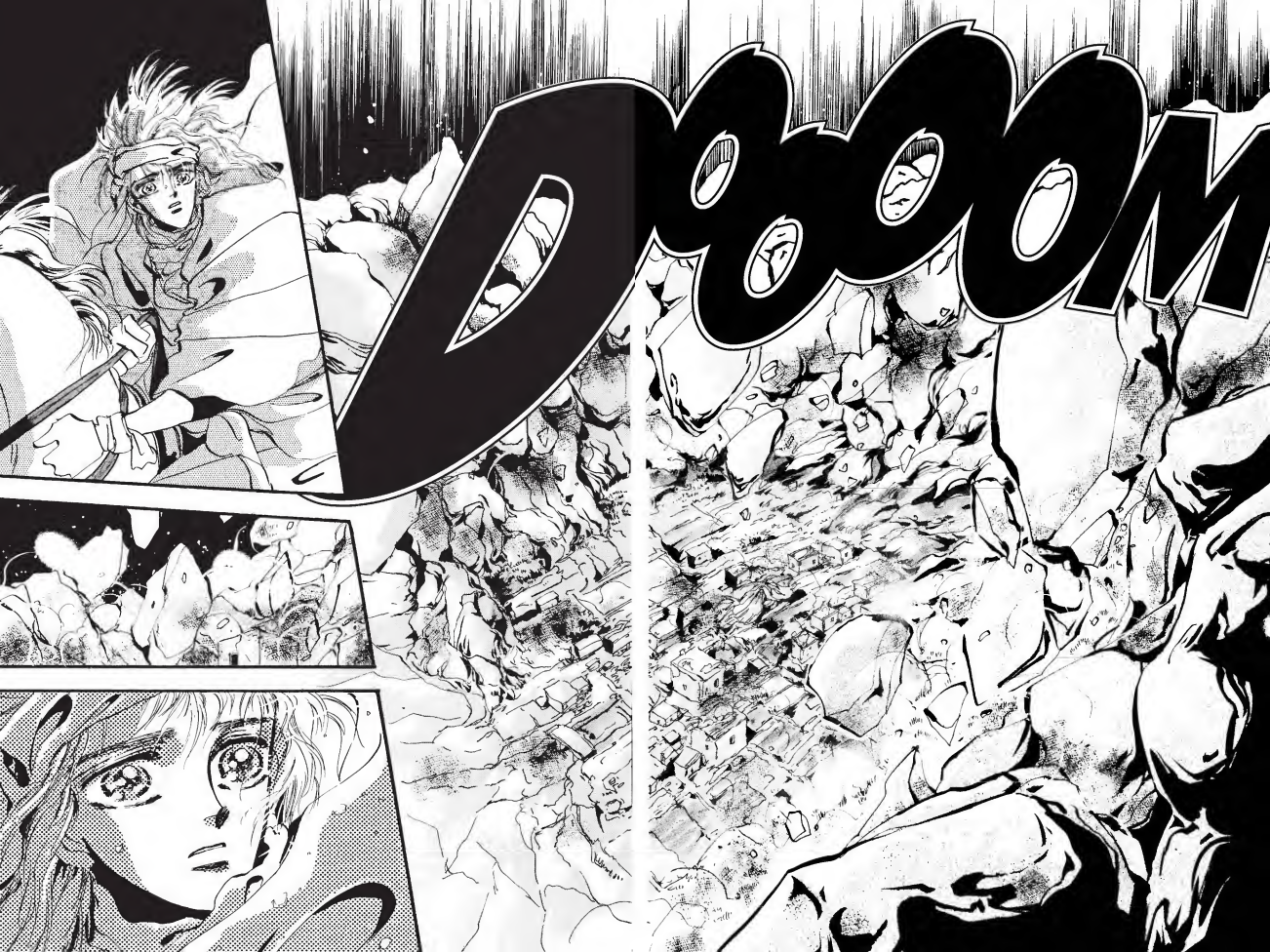
HUH...?
YOU'RE A MAN!?
ALL RIGHT?
CHNG
THOUGH I DON'T YES... KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
THE HAIR FOOLED ME.
WHAT A DISAP-POINTMENT.
HOO
SEEMS I WAS LATE.
THAT'S AGEHA.
UM... BUTTER-FLY...?
WHERE'D YOU POP OUT FROM?
I REMEM-BER THOSE BLUE ROBES...
HOO!
SO HE'S STILL ALIVE!
...TATARA? THE BOY OF DESTINY?
TATARA IS IN THE SOUTH-ERN DESERT!
WILL...
WILL YOU HELP US?

I GUESS I'LL SEE...
...WHAT THIS "BOY OF DESTINY"...
IS REALLY MADE OF.

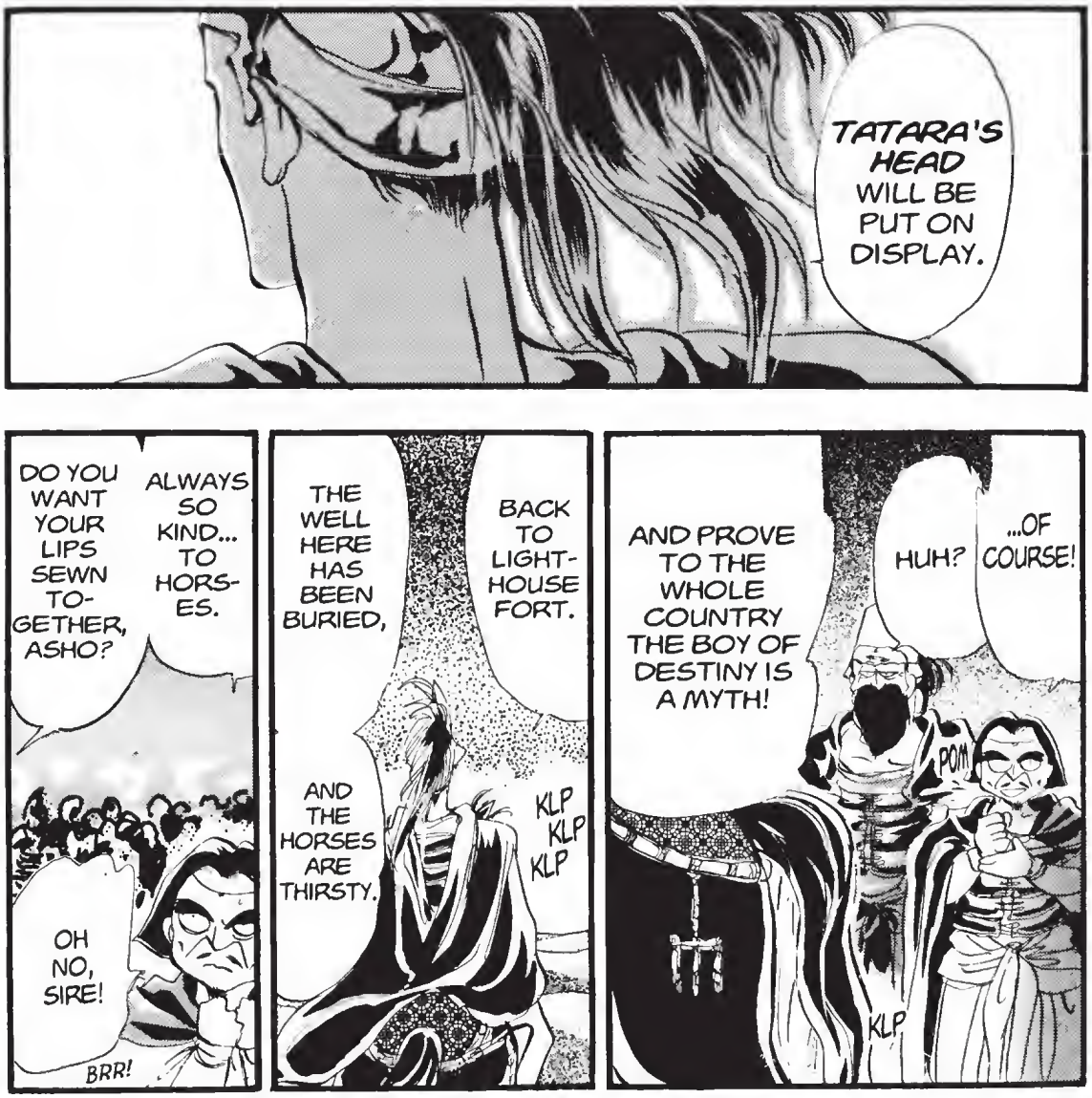
NO WAY...
I COULD NEVER RIDE...
...AS WELL AS THIS.
IT'S TATARA!

HE HAS *TATARA* ON HIS BACK!
YATO...
I HEAR TATARA HAS A TWIN SISTER.
GENERAL KAZAN, CAN'T YOU TELL A BOY FROM A GIRL?
JUST WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ASHO!?
WHOSE HEAD IS *THIS*!?
BUT IF *THAT'S* TATARA...

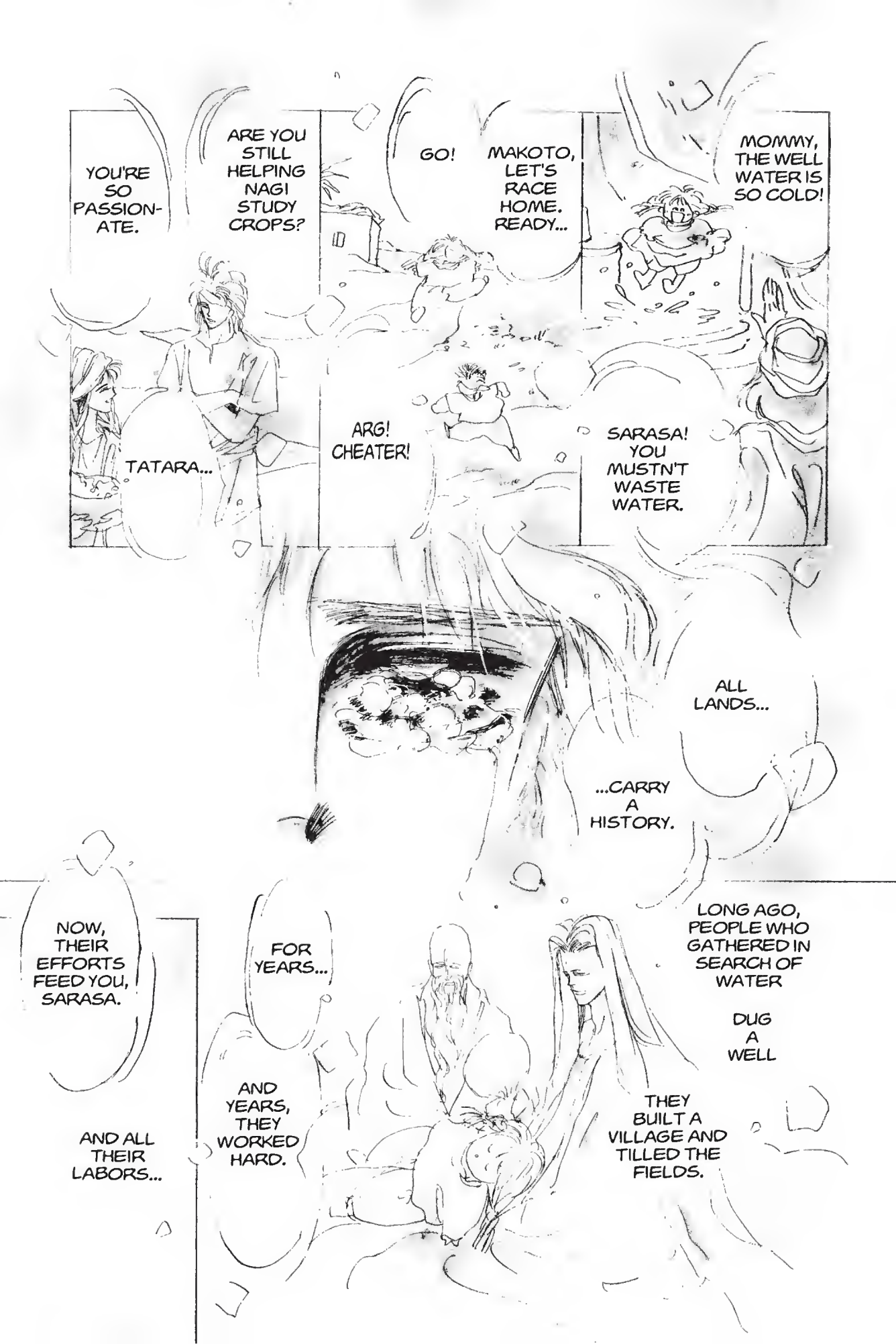
...SIRE?
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THAT RIDER IS TATARA OR NOT. HE'S A DECOY.
WITH-DRAW THE TROOPS.
THE VILLAGERS ARE PLOTTING SOMETHING.
CALL THEM BACK.
NOW!
BLAM
DEAR GODS,
PLEASE!
TSS
TSS
EVERY-BODY, GET BACK!


DOOM

GAAAAA
DOZ
RRRRR
BOOM
KK
DMM
...WE'D HAVE LOST HALF OUR MEN!
IF THE ORDER HAD CAME A MOMENT LATER...
RMMM
SUCH A DRASTIC RESPONSE!
GULP
S... SWAL-LOWED UP...
WHAT ABOUT THE AUTHEN-TICITY OF TATARA'S HEAD?
THAT WAY, THEY WILL DIE IN THE DESERT.
NO ONE IS TO HELP A SINGLE VILLAGER FROM BYAKKO.
PUT OUT A NOTICE TO THE NEIGH-BORING VILLAGES.
HMM...
THAT'S OUR LEADER!
...ONCE CALLED THE "BOY OF DESTINY" BY PROPHETS.
THE RED KING WAS ALSO...

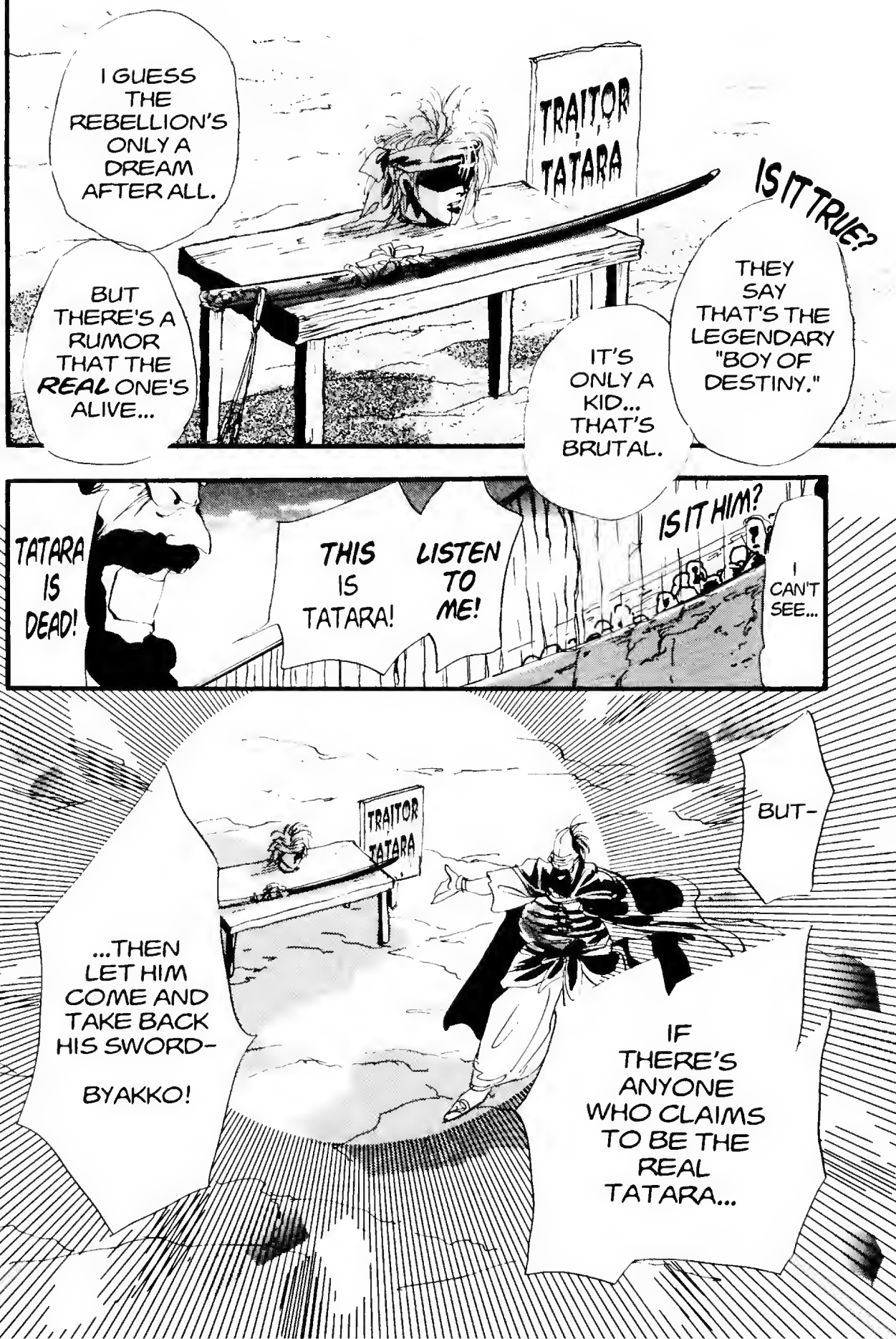

TATARA'S HEAD WILL BE PUT ON DISPLAY.
DO YOU WANT YOUR LIPS SEWN TO-GETHER, ASHO?
ALWAYS SO KIND... TO HORS-ES.
OH NO, SIRE!
BRR!
THE WELL HERE HAS BEEN BURIED,
BACK TO LIGHT-HOUSE FORT.
AND THE HORSES ARE THIRSTY.
KLP KLP KLP
AND PROVE TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY THE BOY OF DESTINY IS A MYTH!
HUH?
...OF COURSE!
POM
KLP
KMM
RMM

THEY USED TO SAY...
...THAT A DEMON LIVES IN THE LAND OF IRON.
...LEFT ITS FOOTPRINTS HERE.
TODAY, A RED DEMON...


YOU'RE SO PASSION-ATE.
ARE YOU STILL HELPING NAGI STUDY CROPS?
TATARA...
GO!
MAKOTO, LET'S RACE HOME. READY...
ARG! CHEATER!
MOMMY, THE WELL WATER IS SO COLD!
SARASA! YOU MUSTN'T WASTE WATER.
ALL LANDS...
...CARRY A HISTORY.
LONG AGO, PEOPLE WHO GATHERED IN SEARCH OF WATER
DUG A WELL
THEY BUILT A VILLAGE AND TILLED THE FIELDS.
FOR YEARS...
AND YEARS, THEY WORKED HARD.
NOW, THEIR EFFORTS FEED YOU, SARASA.
AND ALL THEIR LABORS...

...HAVE
CRUMBLED
AWAY
IN
THE
BLINK
OF
AN
EYE.

TOSS
BA-DUMP
OOF!
JUST THE WAY...
...THIS COUNTRY TURNED INTO SAND.
HNN
OWWW.
HE DUMPS ME AS SOON AS THE JOB IS DONE.
IS THAT...
...WHAT YOU'RE THINK-ING?
"IF YOU GET AS GOOD AS TATARA."
YATO,
I'LL LEARN HOW TO RIDE YOU ONE DAY.
I WILL!


I GUESS THE REBELLION'S ONLY A DREAM AFTER ALL.
BUT THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THE REAL ONE'S ALIVE...
TRAITOR TATARA
IS IT TRUE?
THEY SAY THAT'S THE LEGENDARY "BOY OF DESTINY."
IT'S ONLY A KID... THAT'S BRUTAL.
TATARA IS DEAD!
THIS IS TATARA!
LISTEN TO ME!
IS IT HIM?!
I CAN'T SEE...
TRAITOR TATARA
...THEN LET HIM COME AND TAKE BACK HIS SWORD-
BYAKKO!
BUT-
IF THERE'S ANYONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE REAL TATARA...

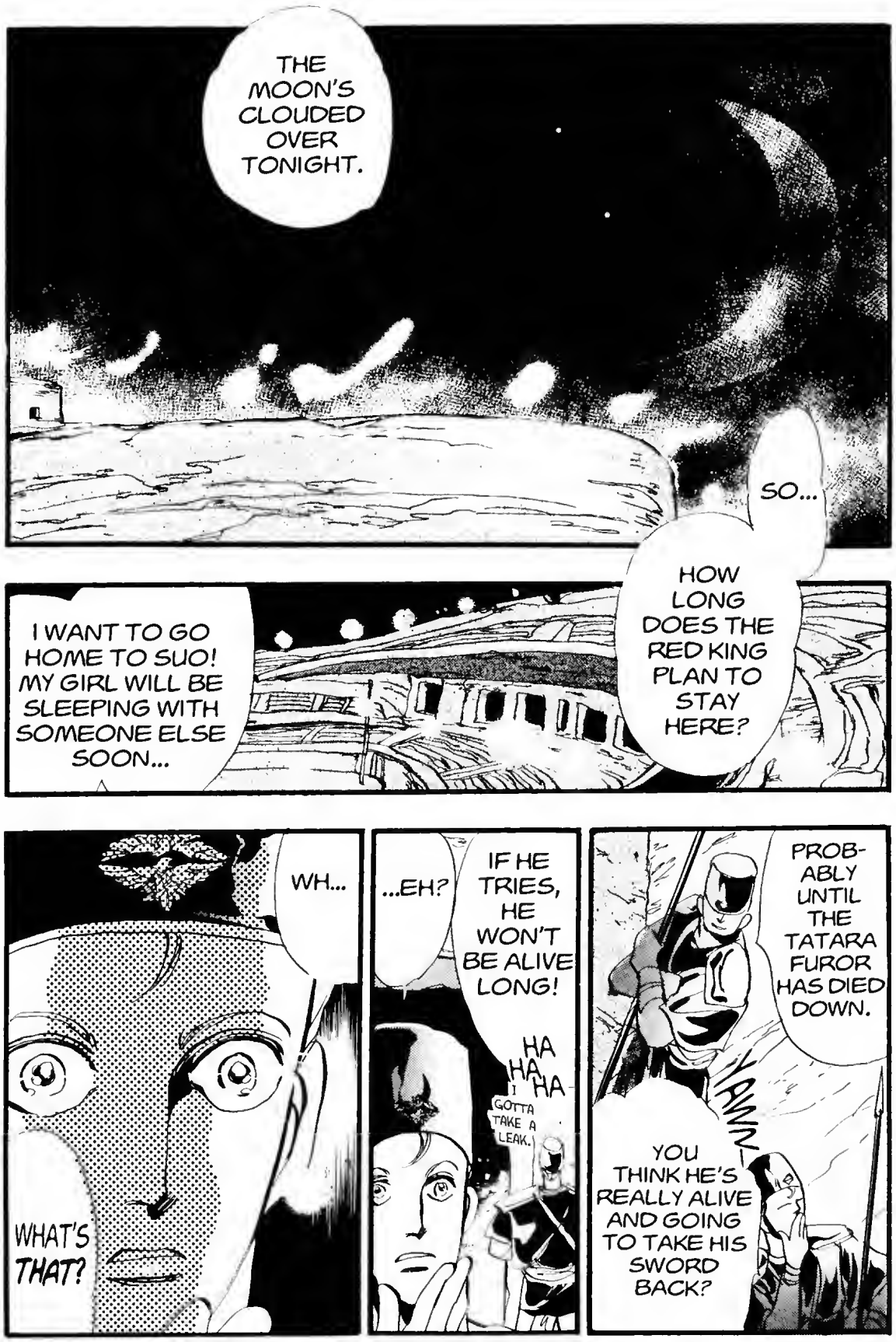
IT'S A ROUND FORT-RESS,
SHAPED LIKE A MORTAR...
...THE RELIC OF SOME ANCIENT SPORTS COLISEUM.
IN THE VERY CENTER ARE DISPLAYED "TATARA'S HEAD" AND THE SWORD BYAKKO.

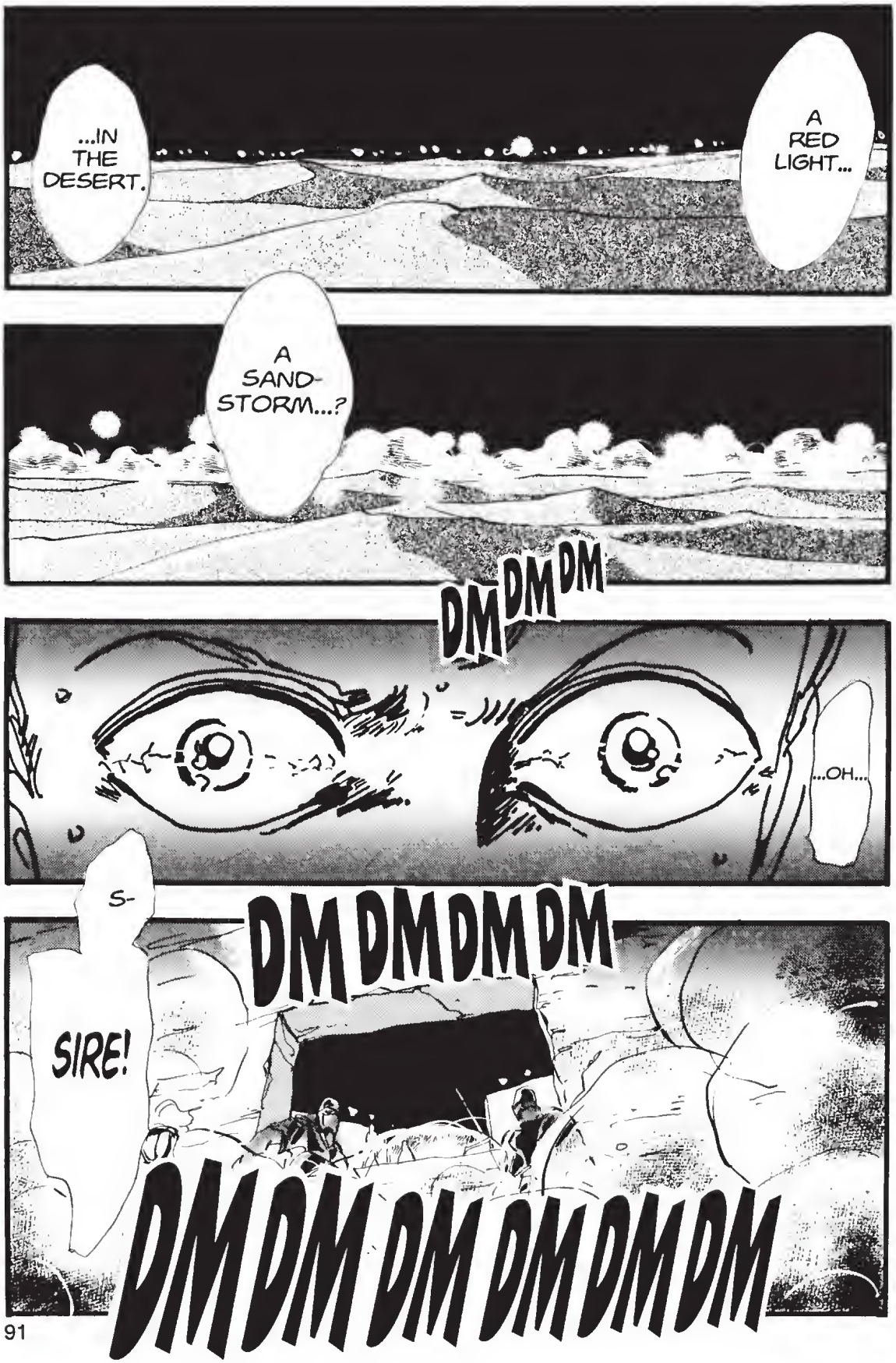
SO...
PEOPLE HOPE FOR THE REAL TATARA TO COME TO TAKE BACK THE SWORD.
AND IF HE CAN ACCOMPLISH THAT...
THERE ARE MANY WHO SAY THEY WOULD JOIN HIM.
NOW, TATA-RA.
ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH AND CLEVER ENOUGH TO PULL THAT OFF?
HEY! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THAT WAY!?
KAKU!
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, I CAN LEND YOU HORSES AND SUPPLIES...
.....
...WITHIN REASON.

SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH TATARA...
YUNOKA...
UM... EXCUSE ME, LORD TATARA?
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE THIRSTY...
YUNOKA.
MAKO-TO'S MOM...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT SUPPLIES, LORD TATARA! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH TO LAST US A WHILE!
...BRING SO MUCH WITH HER?
HOW DID SHE...
I NEED 100...
NO.
I NEED 1000 COWS. CAN YOU GET THEM RIGHT AWAY?
AGEHA...
THEY BELIEVE.
I'M DECEIV-ING ALL OF THEM.
THEY BELIEVE I'M TATARA.

...FUNDS?
I HAVE NO MONEY.
THERE IS NOTHING AGEHA CANNOT DO.
HOO
BUT DO YOU HAVE THE NECES-SARY...
COWS?
NOT HORSES?
CAN YOU DO IT?
I... I'VE GOT A SECRET STASH.
ELDER, PLEASE STAY IN BED!
TAKE MINE, TOO.
TATARA, I HAVE A LITTLE.
.....
ALL RIGHT.
HOO-EE!
SIR.
USE MINE.
YOU CAN HAVE MY RATION OF MEAT.
I CAN GO A FEW DAYS WITHOUT EATING.
ME TOO.
I ONLY HAVE THIS MUCH.

IT IS NIGHT.
NOW, THERE IS NOTHING SWIFTER THAN YOU!
KAGERO: "MAYFLY"
FLAP
FLAP
WOOSH
GO, KAGERO!
SKWIK SKWIK
I'LL CALL IT AN INVEST-MENT IN YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS.
TUG
I?
I AM KNOWN AS THE BLUE NOBLE...
...THOUGH HE LOST HIS EYE BECAUSE OF ME.
...OF THE DESERT.
AGEHA...
WHO ARE YOU?
HE'S SO GENER-OUS...
HE FALLS ASLEEP DURING THE DAY.
NOT EXACTLY BUILT LIKE A MAYFLY ANYMORE, EITHER...
MAKES HIM A RATHER SLOW CARRIER PIGEON.

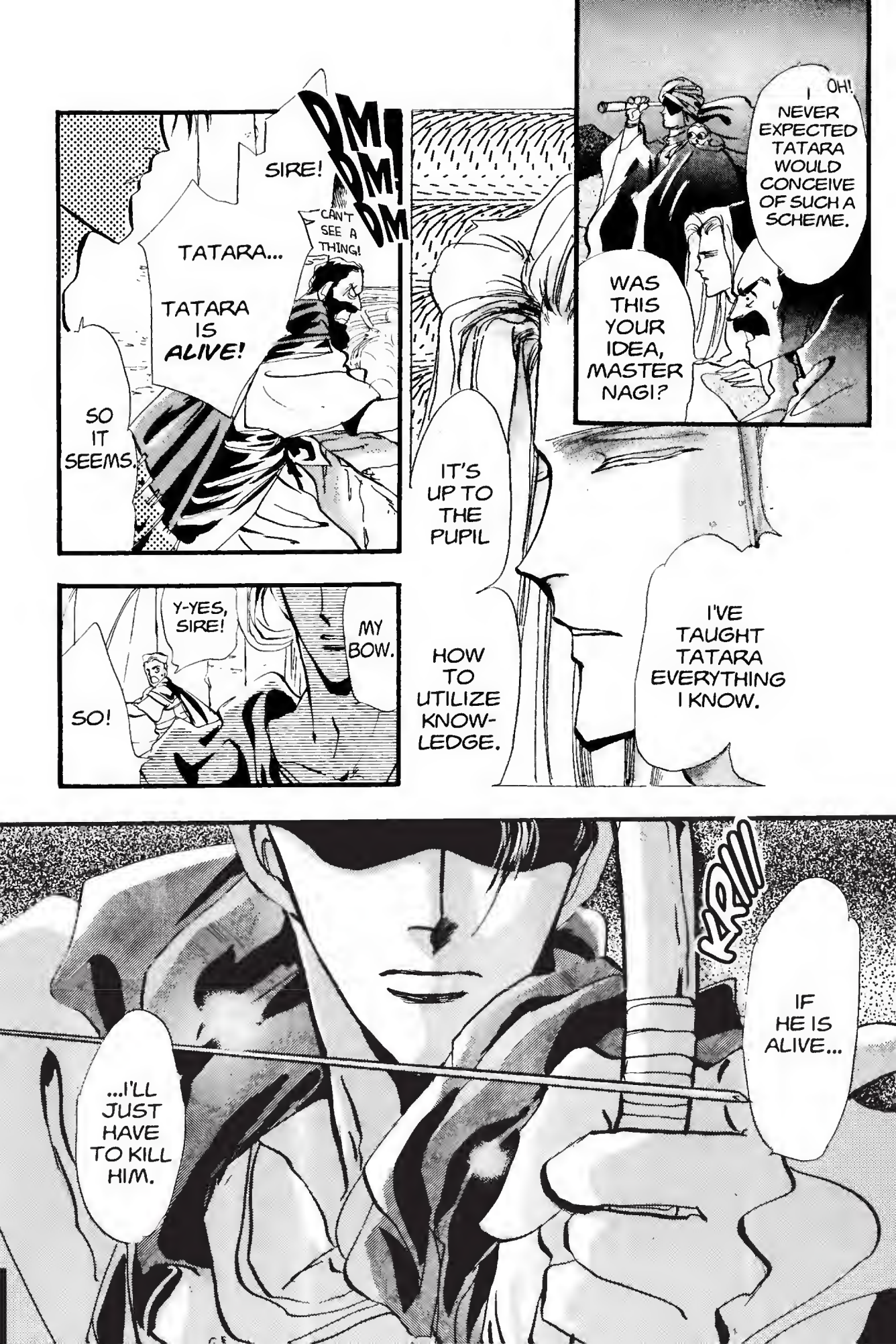

THE MOON'S CLOUDED OVER TONIGHT.
SO...
HOW LONG DOES THE RED KING PLAN TO STAY HERE?
I WANT TO GO HOME TO SUO! MY GIRL WILL BE SLEEPING WITH SOMEONE ELSE SOON...
PROB-ABLY UNTIL THE TATARA FUROR HAS DIED DOWN.
YAWN
YOU THINK HE'S REALLY ALIVE AND GOING TO TAKE HIS SWORD BACK?
IF HE TRIES, HE WON'T BE ALIVE LONG!
...EH?
HA HA HA
I GOTTA TAKE A LEAK.
WH...
WHAT'S THAT?


...IN THE DESERT.
A RED LIGHT...
A SAND-STORM...?
DM DM DM
...OH...
S-
SIRE!
DM DM DM DM
DM DM DM DM DM DM

DADADADA
COWS!?
IT'S A STAM-PEDE!
GYAAA!
STOP THEM!
THEY'RE GOING IN!

SIIIRE!
SIRE!
HEEEUP!
MWOO
HEAD THEM OFF!
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM

TATARA...
DM
DMDMDM
BYAKKO-
DMDM DM
TATARA RECLAIMS THE WHITE TIGER!


OH! I NEVER EXPECTED TATARA WOULD CONCEIVE OF SUCH A SCHEME.
WAS THIS YOUR IDEA, MASTER NAGI?
I'VE TAUGHT TATARA EVERYTHING I KNOW.
IT'S UP TO THE PUPIL
HOW TO UTILIZE KNOW-LEDGE.
DM! DM! DM
SIRE!
CAN'T SEE A THING!
TATARA...
TATARA IS ALIVE!
SO IT SEEMS.
Y-YES, SIRE!
MY BOW.
SO!
IF HE IS ALIVE...
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO KILL HIM.

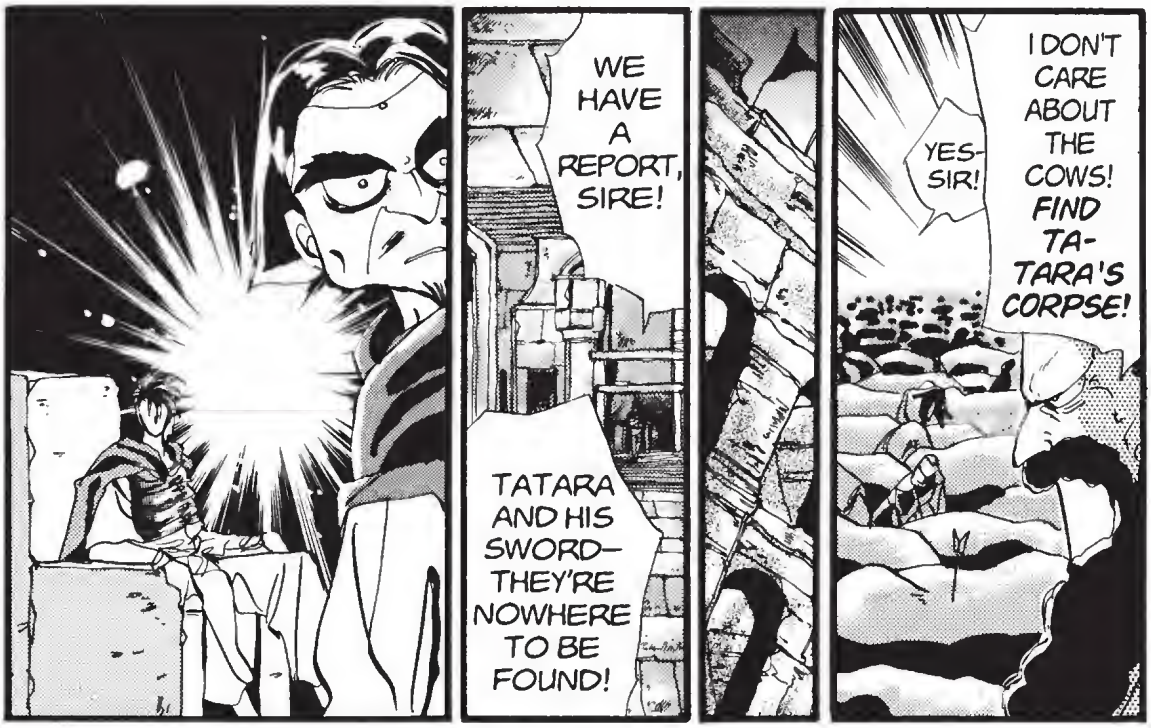
OH!
AN ARROW.
THE RED KING!

AAAH!
TH
N

SCARLET TALE 3: CHANCE ENCOUNTER

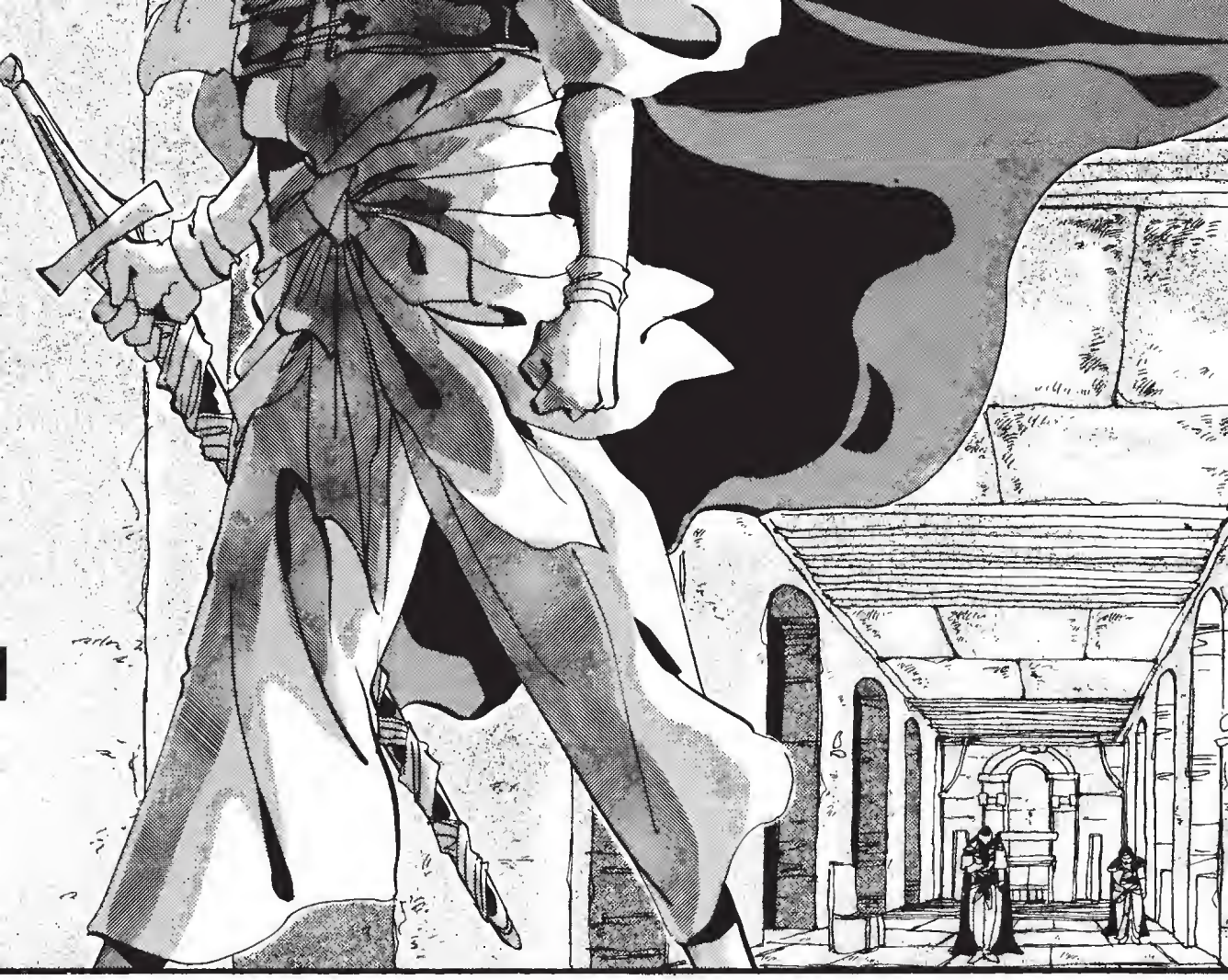
DM DM DM DM DM
HE'LL BE TRAMPLED UNTIL HE'S UNRECOG-NIZABLE.
HE FELL.
WHERE'S TATARA?
SIRE! I CAN'T SEE WITH ALL THIS DUST!
DM DM DM...

WELL, WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD FOR A WHILE.
STEAK EVERY DAY!
872
873


I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE COWS! FIND TA-TARA'S CORPSE!
YES-SIR!
WE HAVE A REPORT, SIRE!
TATARA AND HIS SWORD— THEY'RE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!

SO HE ACTUALLY ESCAPED?
WHAT LUCK HE HAS...
NO, ASHO.

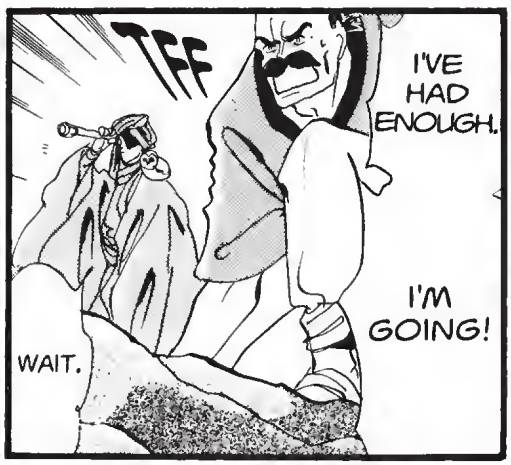
BE ASHAMED OF THE WEAKNESS OF OUR DEFENSES AND THE SLOPPINESS OF OUR ARMY!
TK
Y-YES, SIRE!
LUCK–
IS MADE BY FORCE.
HE MADE HIS LUCK.
WHY DO THEY MAKE SO MUCH OF ONE SKINNY BRAT!?
DAMN IT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE ANYONE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DELIVER SO MANY CATTLE WOULD ALLY HIMSELF WITH TATARA.
M-MY LORD, SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN–
I'M GOING TO BED. HASTEN THE REPAIRS TO THE FORT.
TK TK
BECAUSE HIS ELDERS ARE SUCH A STUPID LOT.
THAT'S OBVIOUS.



WHO KNOWS?
BUT– TA- TARA!?
A FEW COWS WAN- DERING...

WHAT HAP- PENED, AGEHA?
IT'S GONE QUIET.
I DON'T SEE ANY- THING.

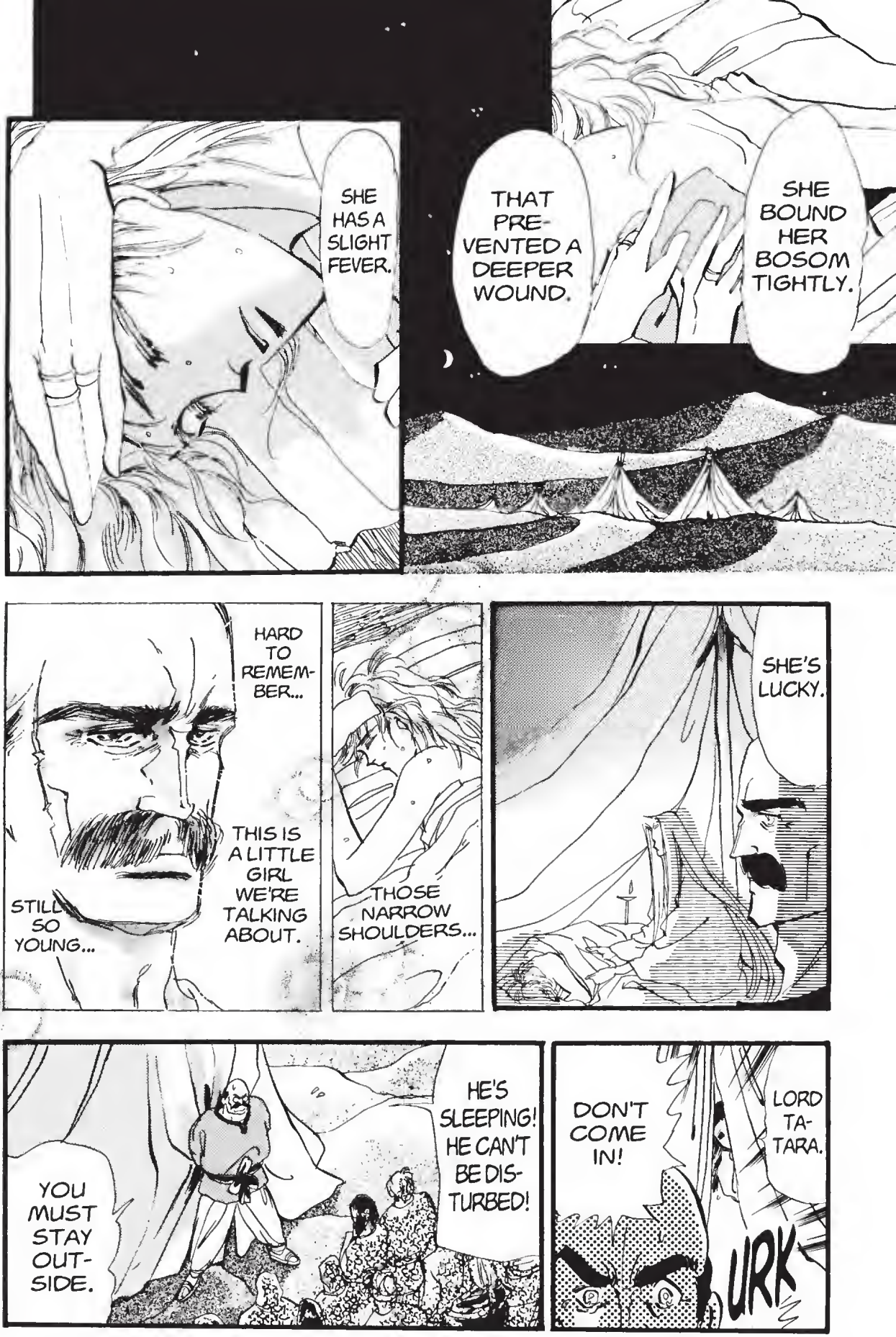
A COW...
KLP KLP
KLP

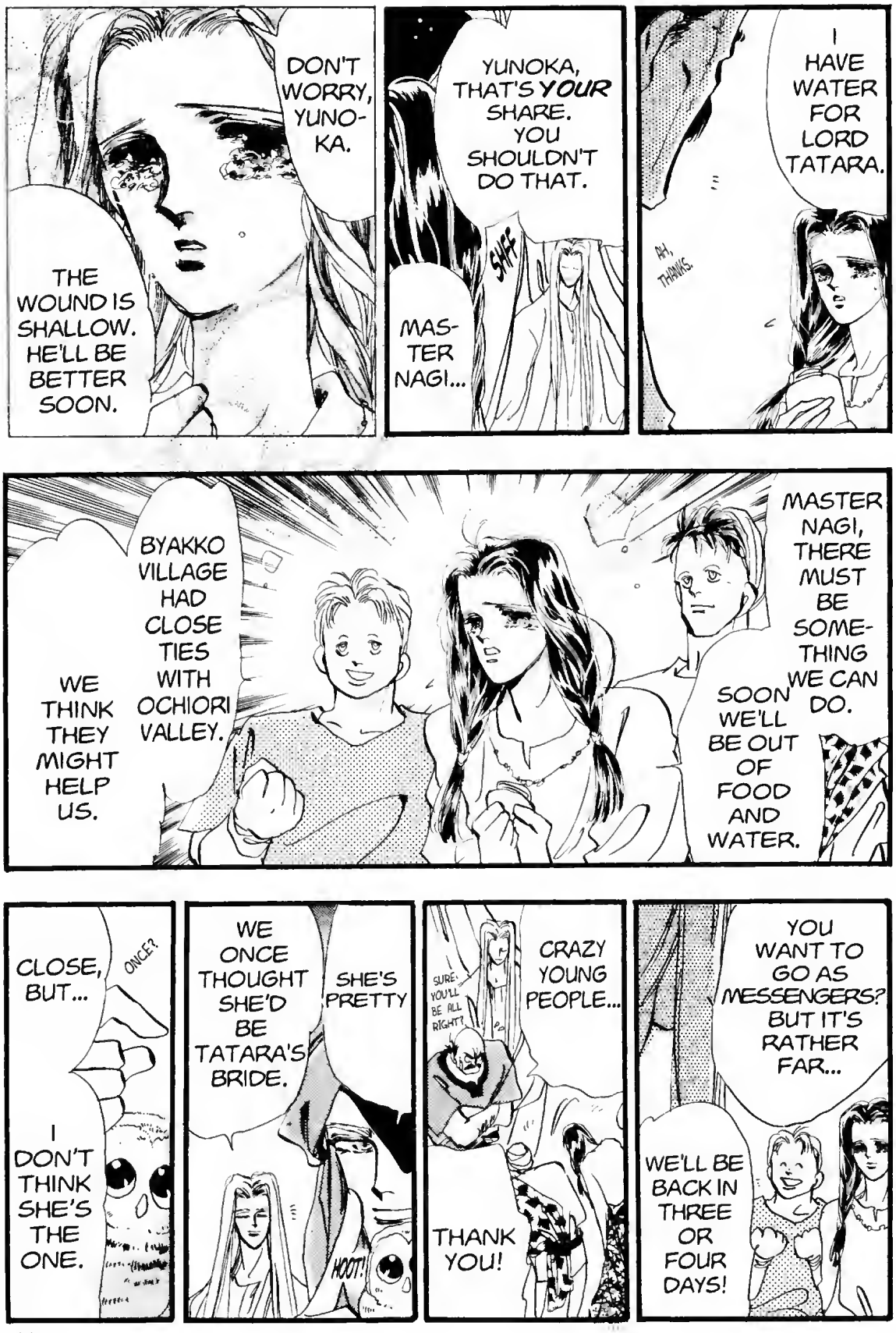

TFF
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
I'M GOING!
WAIT.

TATARA!

A...
GE...
HA...
HE'S BEEN SHOT!
TATARA!
DSHK
TATARA!
HEH
I DID IT.
DID YOU... SEE?

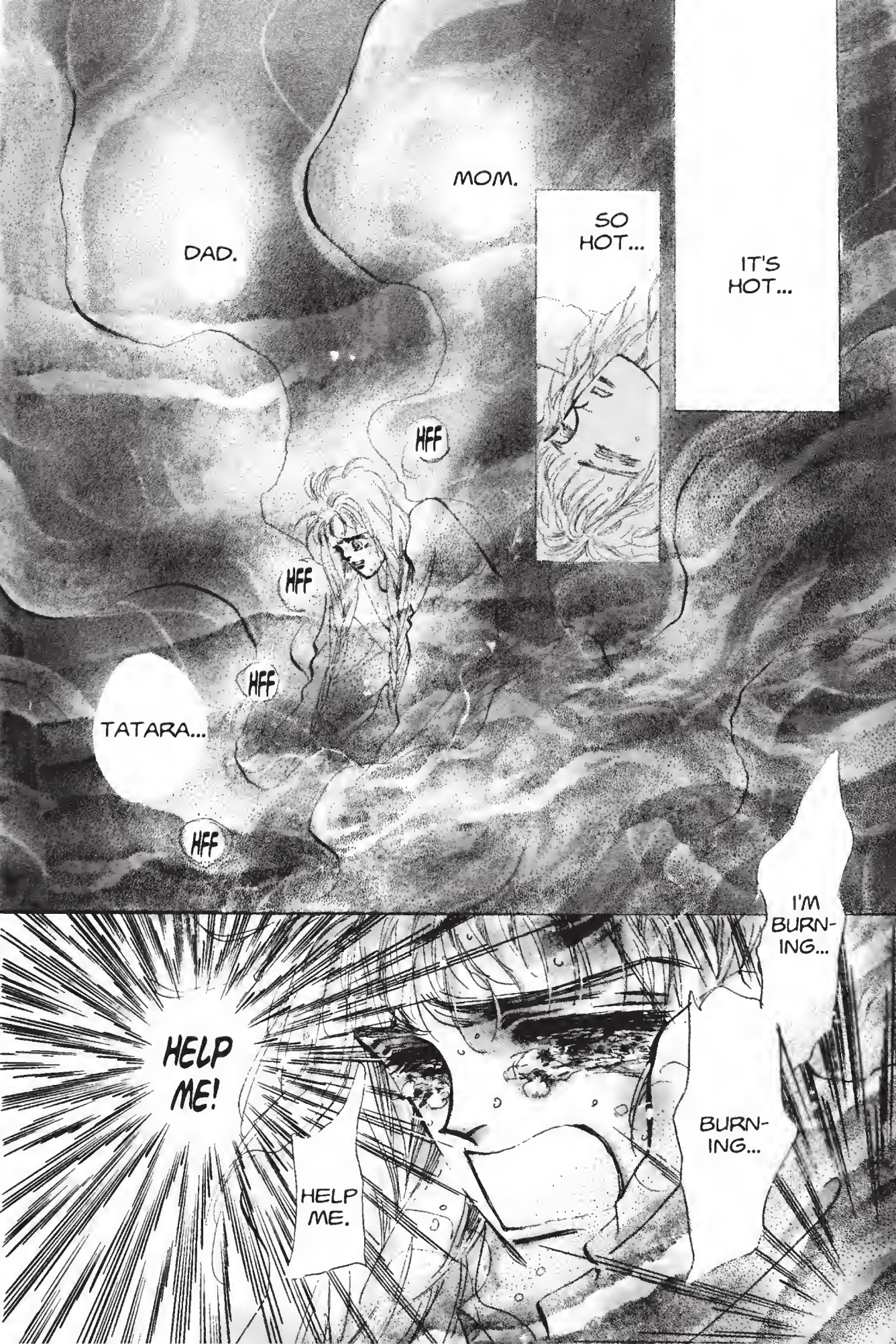
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THEY COME AFTER YOU RIGHT NOW?
GNG
YES, YOU DID WELL.
BUT...
AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THE SWORD YOU JUST TOOK BACK.
YOU'LL BE A HIN-DRANCE NOW,
WITH THAT WOUND.
HEY! HOW ABOUT A LITTLE APPRECIA-TION HERE!?
HE'S RIGHT, KAKU.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
LET ME HELP YOU.
I'M FINE!
I CAN WALK...
SHK
I CAN WALK ON MY OWN.

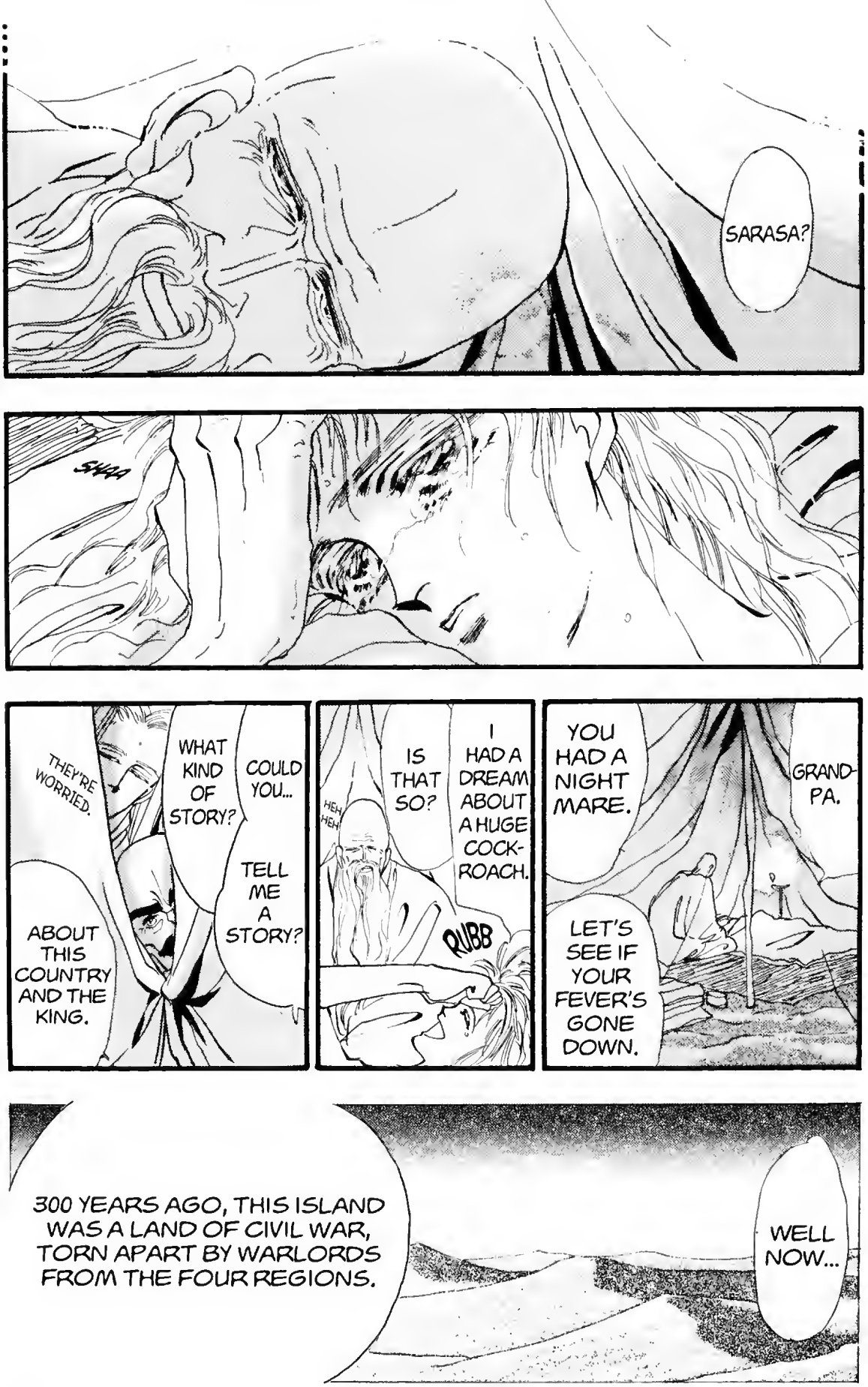

SHE BOUND HER BOSOM TIGHTLY.
THAT PREVENTED A DEEPER WOUND.
SHE HAS A SLIGHT FEVER.
SHE'S LUCKY.
THOSE NARROW SHOULDERS...
HARD TO REMEMBER...
THIS IS A LITTLE GIRL WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
STILL SO YOUNG...
LORD TATARA.
DON'T COME IN!
URK
HE'S SLEEPING! HE CAN'T BE DISTURBED!
YOU MUST STAY OUTSIDE.

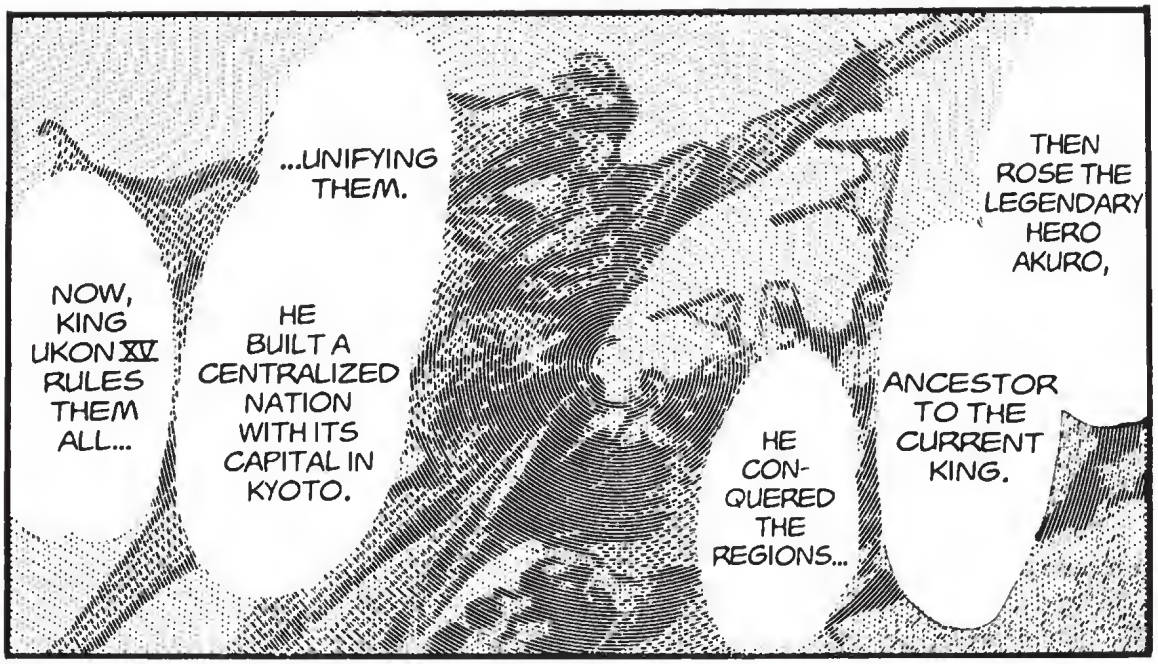

DON'T WORRY, YUNO-KA.
THE WOUND IS SHALLOW. HE'LL BE BETTER SOON.
YUNOKA, THAT'S YOUR SHARE. YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT.
SNIFF
MAS-TER NAGI...
I HAVE WATER FOR LORD TATARA.
AH, THANKS.
MASTER NAGI, THERE MUST BE SOME-THING WE CAN DO.
SOON WE'LL BE OUT OF FOOD AND WATER.
BYAKKO VILLAGE HAD CLOSE TIES WITH OCHIORI VALLEY.
WE THINK THEY MIGHT HELP US.
YOU WANT TO GO AS MESSENGERS? BUT IT'S RATHER FAR...
WE'LL BE BACK IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS!
CRAZY YOUNG PEOPLE...
SURE. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
THANK YOU!
WE ONCE THOUGHT SHE'D BE TATARA'S BRIDE.
SHE'S PRETTY
HOOT!
CLOSE, BUT...
ONCE?
I DON'T THINK SHE'S THE ONE.

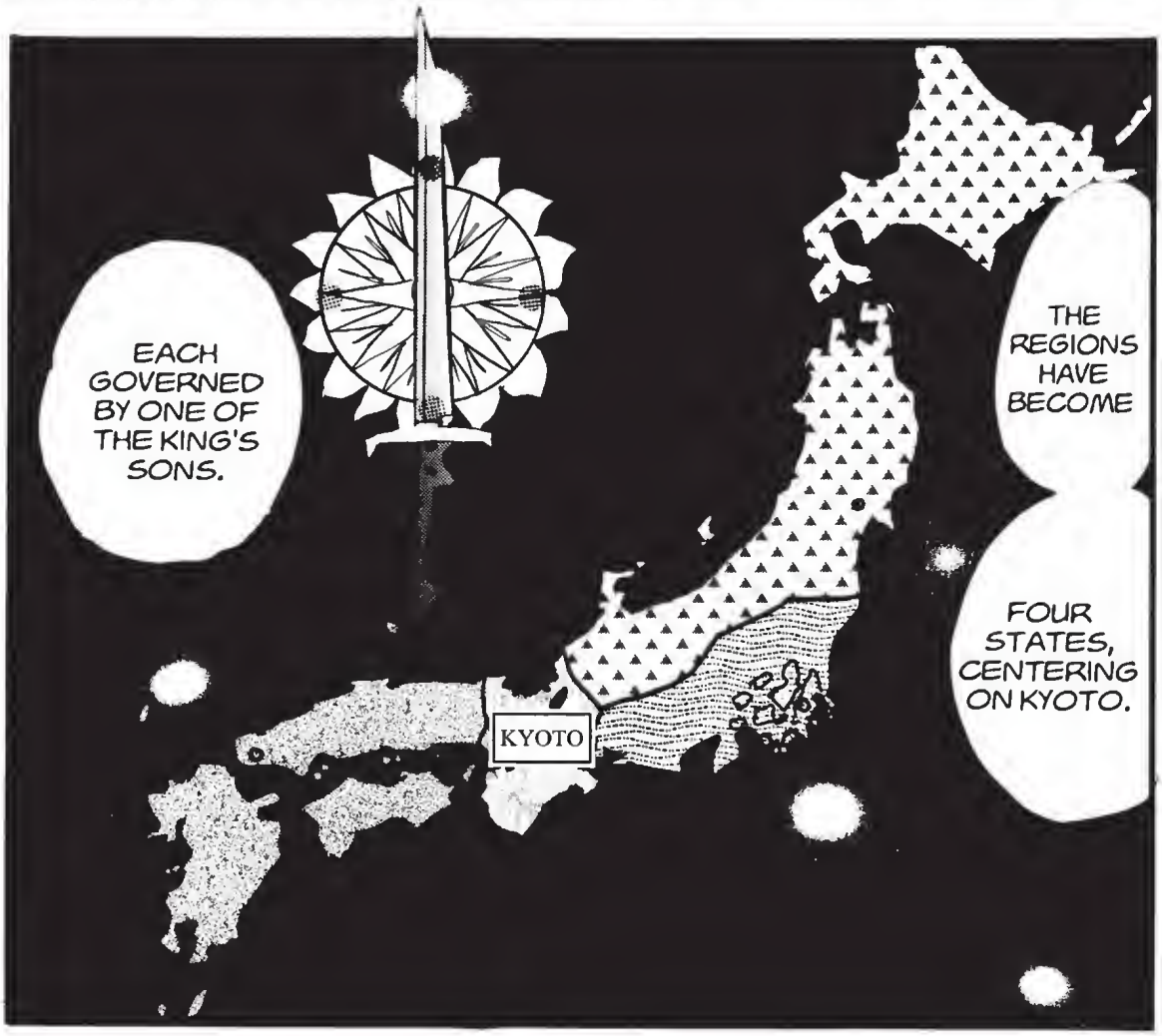
A PRO-PHET ONCE TOLD ME
ONE DAY I'D MEET A WOMAN WORTH DYING FOR.
IT HASN'T COME TRUE YET.
HEH HEH
OR PER-HAPS YOU HAVE MET HER...
...AND YOU JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT.
TOO BAD YOU TURNED OUT TO BE A MAN.
REALLY? SORRY...
IT'S A CLEAR NIGHT.
I SEE CHIRON AIMING HIS ARROW AT SCORPIO IN THE SOUTHERN SKY.
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE...
IT REMINDS ME...
...OF TATARA AND THE RED KING.
LONG AFTER THE FOUR SEASONS HAVE ABAN-DONED THIS LAND...
...THE HEAVENS WILL STILL MARK THE MARCH OF THE YEAR.
IT'S SUMMER.

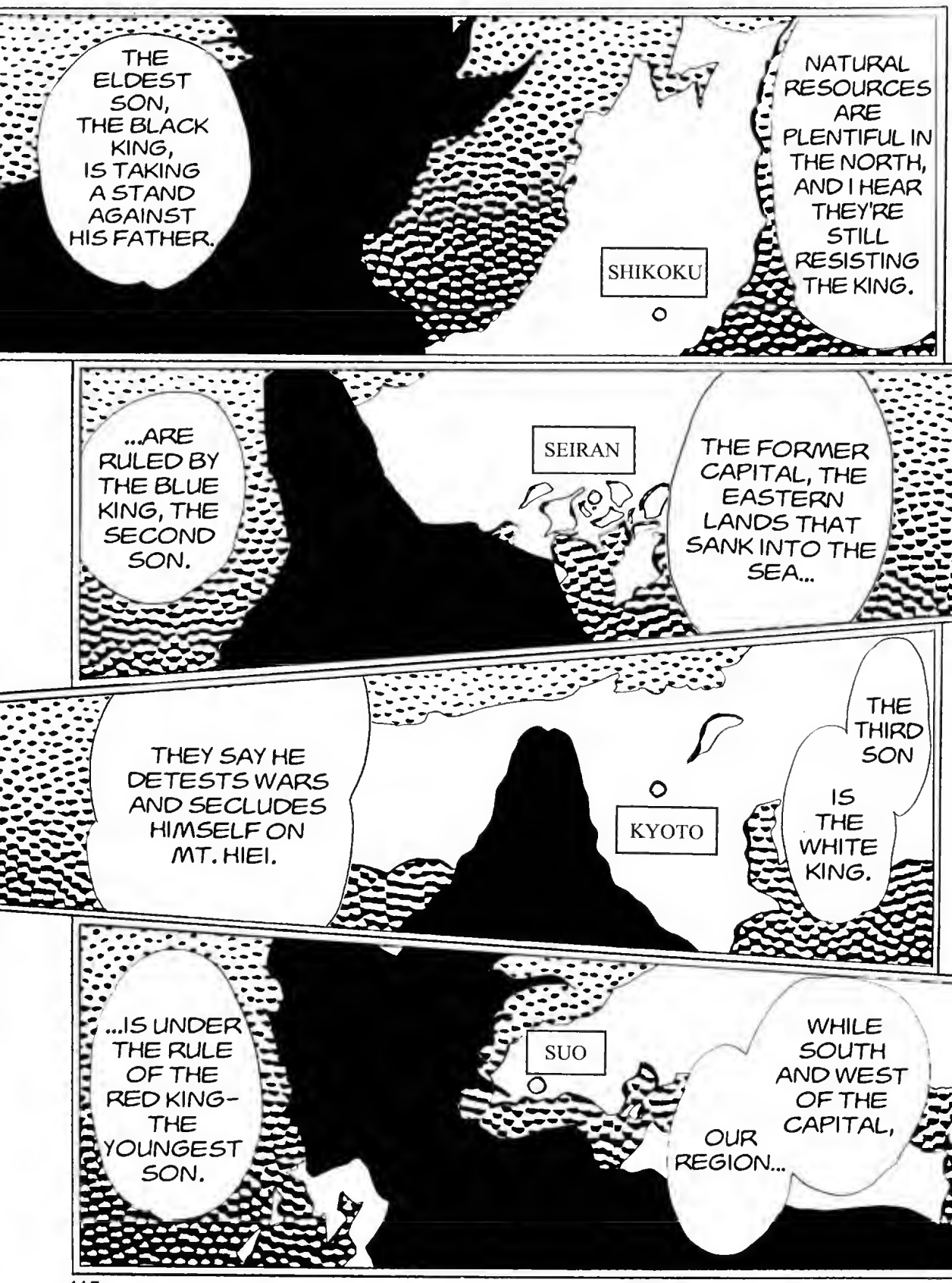
CHIRON... SAGIT-TARIUS...
THE IM-MORTAL HALF-BEAST.
THANK YOU.
HEH
OH. IN A ROCKY PLACE ABOUT FIVE KILO-METERS WEST OF HERE...
G'NIGHT.
I HEAR THEY'RE GOOD FOR HEALING.
...THERE ARE A COUPLE OF HOT SPRINGS.
IN WINTER...
YET HE, TOO, WILL BE SHOT BY AN ARROW AND DIE.
...THE SKY YIELDS TO THE MIGHTY HUNTER ORION...
...WHO, HIMSELF, FLEES FROM THE DESERT SCORP-ION.


MOM.
DAD.
SO HOT...
IT'S HOT...
HFF
HFF
HFF
TATARA...
HFF
I'M BURN-ING...
HELP ME!
HELP ME.
BURN-ING...

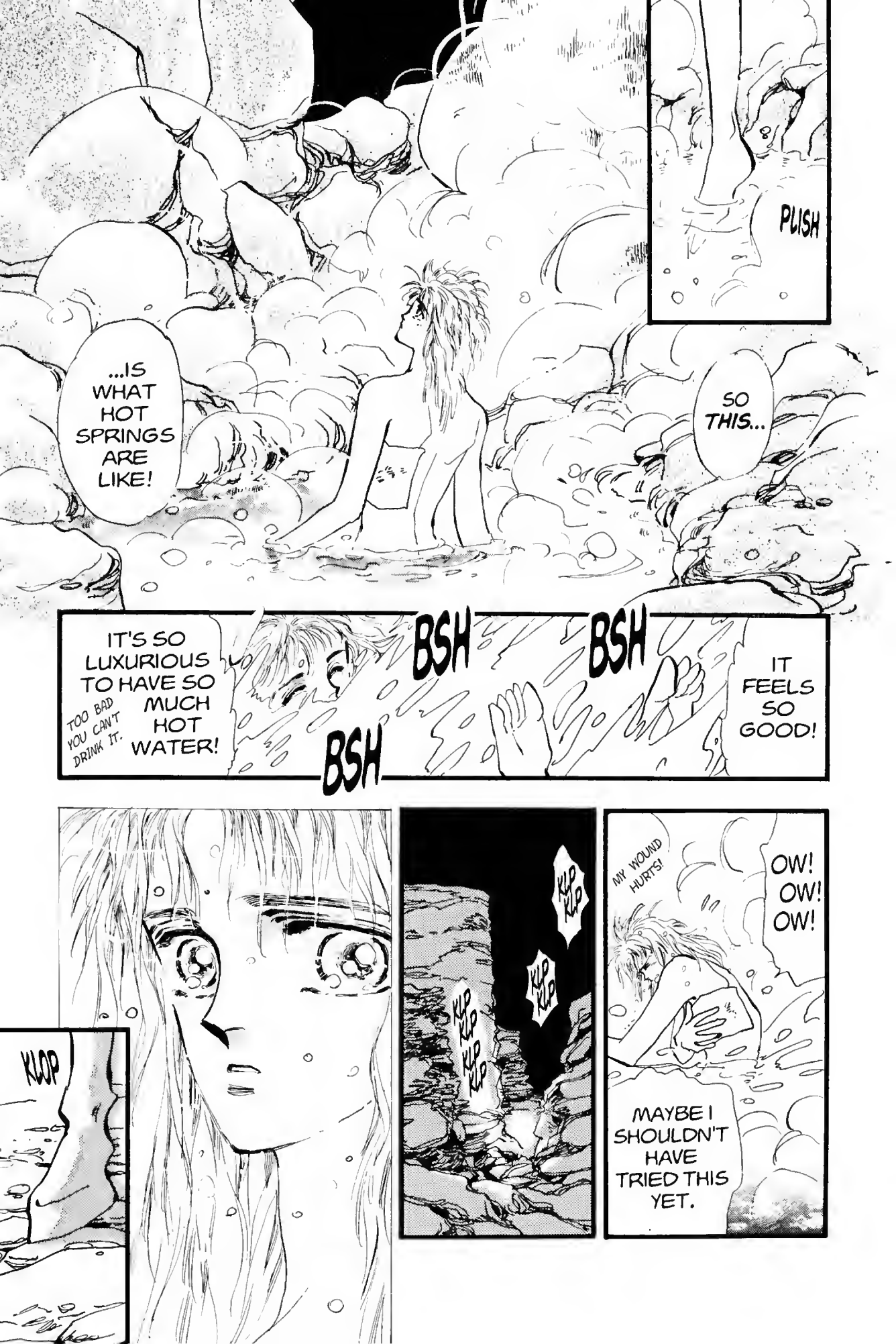

SARASA?
SHAA
YOU HAD A NIGHT MARE.
GRAND-PA.
LET'S SEE IF YOUR FEVER'S GONE DOWN.
I HAD A DREAM ABOUT A HUGE COCK-ROACH.
IS THAT SO?
HEH HEH
RUBB
COULD YOU...
TELL ME A STORY?
WHAT KIND OF STORY?
THEY'RE WORRIED.
ABOUT THIS COUNTRY AND THE KING.
300 YEARS AGO, THIS ISLAND WAS A LAND OF CIVIL WAR, TORN APART BY WARLORDS FROM THE FOUR REGIONS.
WELL NOW...


THEN ROSE THE LEGENDARY HERO AKURO,
ANCESTOR TO THE CURRENT KING.
HE CON-QUERED THE REGIONS...
...UNIFYING THEM.
HE BUILT A CENTRALIZED NATION WITH ITS CAPITAL IN KYOTO.
NOW, KING UKON XV RULES THEM ALL...


THE REGIONS HAVE BECOME
FOUR STATES, CENTERING ON KYOTO.
KYOTO
EACH GOVERNED BY ONE OF THE KING'S SONS.


THE ELDEST SON, THE BLACK KING, IS TAKING A STAND AGAINST HIS FATHER.
SHIKOKU
NATURAL RESOURCES ARE PLENTIFUL IN THE NORTH, AND I HEAR THEY'RE STILL RESISTING THE KING.
...ARE RULED BY THE BLUE KING, THE SECOND SON.
SEIRAN
THE FORMER CAPITAL, THE EASTERN LANDS THAT SANK INTO THE SEA...
THEY SAY HE DETESTS WARS AND SECLUDES HIMSELF ON MT. HIEI.
KYOTO
THE THIRD SON IS THE WHITE KING.
...IS UNDER THE RULE OF THE RED KING- THE YOUNGEST SON.
SUO
WHILE SOUTH AND WEST OF THE CAPITAL, OUR REGION...

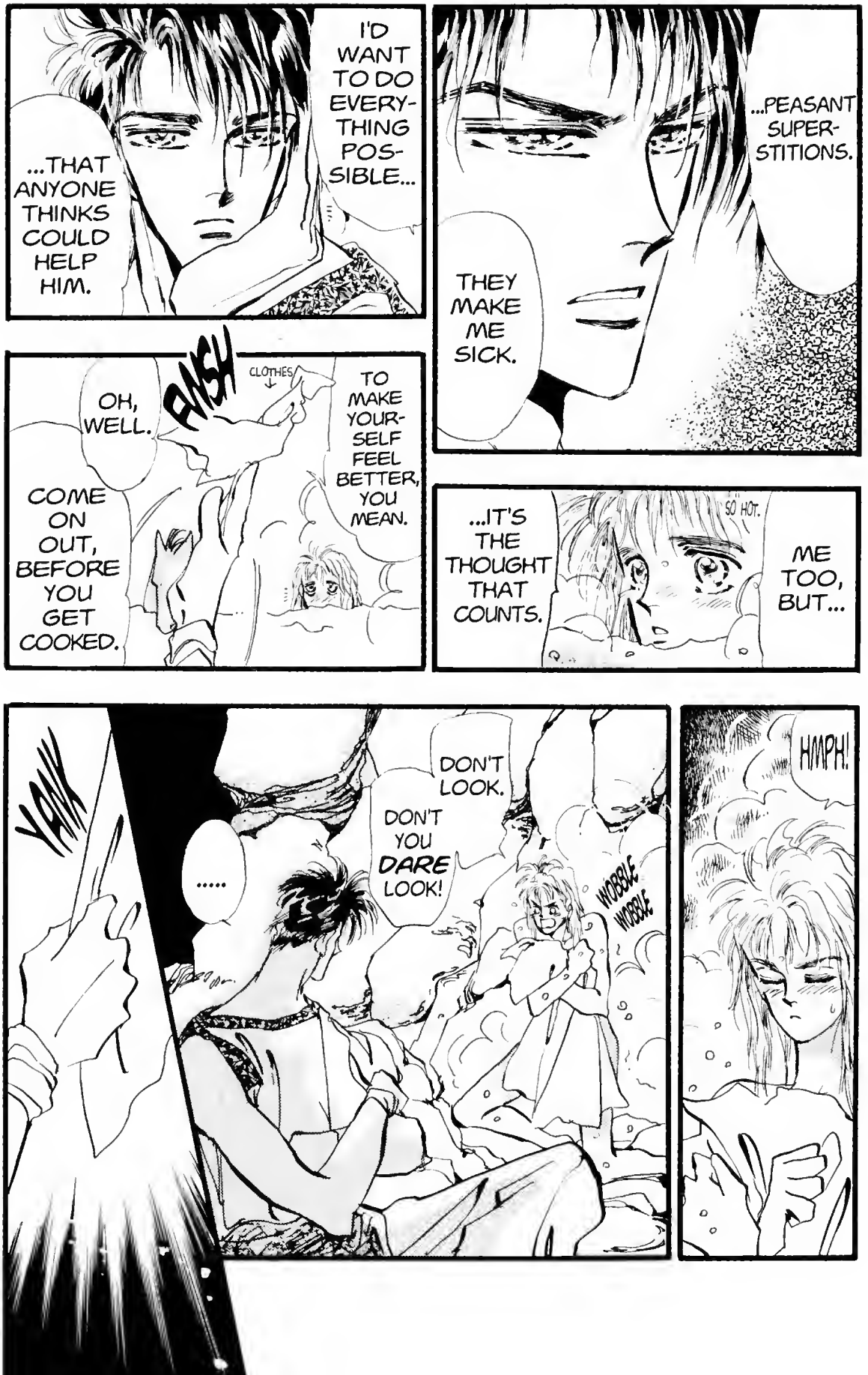
ARE YOU ASLEEP?
SARA-SA...?
ZZZ
WOW!


PLISH
SO THIS...
...IS WHAT HOT SPRINGS ARE LIKE!
IT'S SO LUXURIOUS TO HAVE SO MUCH HOT WATER!
TOO BAD YOU CAN'T DRINK IT.
BSH
BSH
BSH
IT FEELS SO GOOD!
KLOP
KLP KLP
KLP KLP
KLP KLP
MY WOUND HURTS!
OW! OW! OW!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED THIS YET.

HM?
KLP
I THOUGHT ONLY THE ANIMALS AND I KNEW ABOUT THIS PLACE.

HE-HE SAW ME!
BLUB BLUB
ALL OF ME!
BOOSA
GYAAA!
GASP!
...OF NAKED WOMEN.
DON'T MIND ME. I'VE SEEN MY SHARE...
I MIGHT BUT...
MY CLOTHES ARE OVER THERE...
GET OUT. MY HORSE IS NEXT.
NEHH
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
GRRR
ASSUMING YOU ARE A WOMAN.
IT ISN'T OBVIOUS.
HA HA HA!
RATHER HAVE IT THAT WAY, ANYHOW.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO MIND ME.
CREEP.
I MIND, ALL RIGHT.
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN THERE?
AND SO...
IF YOU PRAY OVER A CUCUMBER AND BURY IT...
...IT SUCKS THE SICKNESS AWAY FROM YOU.
NAGI TOLD ME.
YOU SHOULD BURY A CUCUMBER.
THE VEGETABLE?
YOU KNOW ANOTHER KIND OF CUCUMBER?
HIS WOUND IS SLOW TO HEAL.
ONCE TOKI, MY "IBIS," CAN RUN AGAIN,
THERE WILL BE NO FASTER HORSE.
...YOU COME HERE JUST TO SOAK YOUR HORSE?


I'D WANT TO DO EVERY-THING POS-SIBLE...
...THAT ANYONE THINKS COULD HELP HIM.
...PEASANT SUPER-STITIONS.
THEY MAKE ME SICK.
TO MAKE YOUR-SELF FEEL BETTER, YOU MEAN.
CLOTHES
RUSH
OH, WELL.
COME ON OUT, BEFORE YOU GET COOKED.
...IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.
SO HOT.
ME TOO, BUT...
HMPH!
DON'T LOOK.
DON'T YOU DARE LOOK!
WOBBLE WOBBLE
.....
YANK

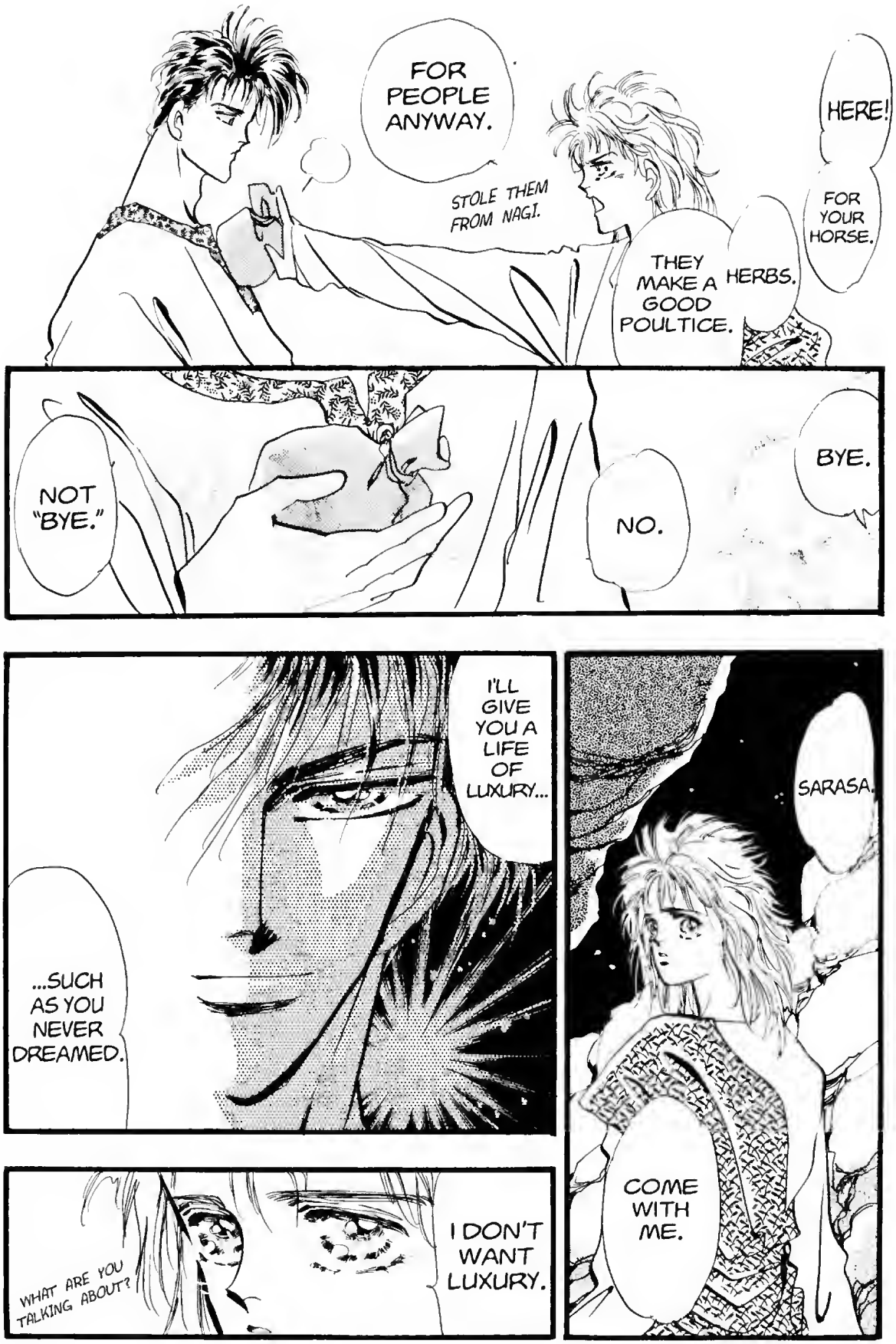
WHAT...
ALL WOMEN LIKE IT WHEN I DO THIS.

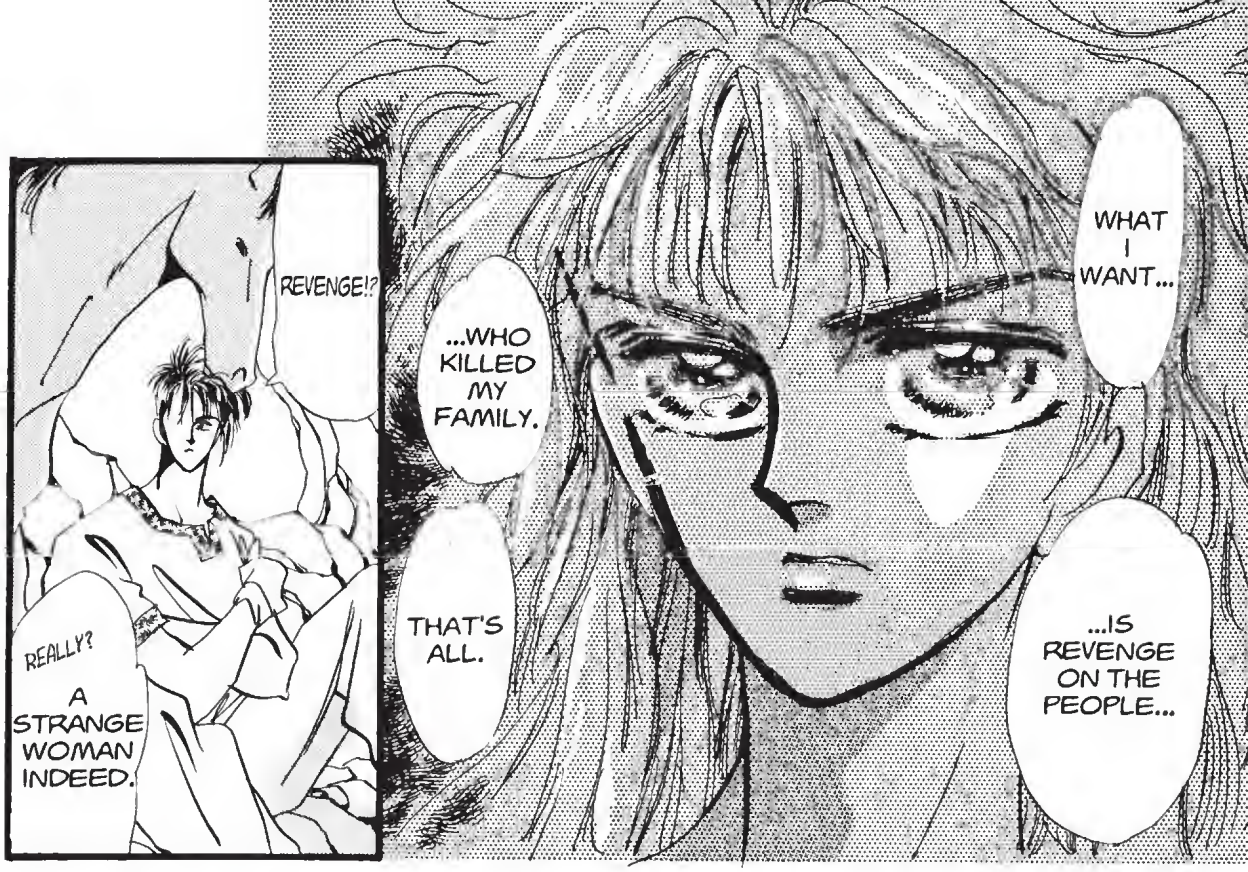
HA HA HA!
SO I SEE.
NO OTHER WOMAN WOULD PUNCH ME.
I'M NOT
ONE OF THOSE WOMEN!
POW
YOU JERK!!
I AM
SHURI.
AND YOU?
.....
SARASA.

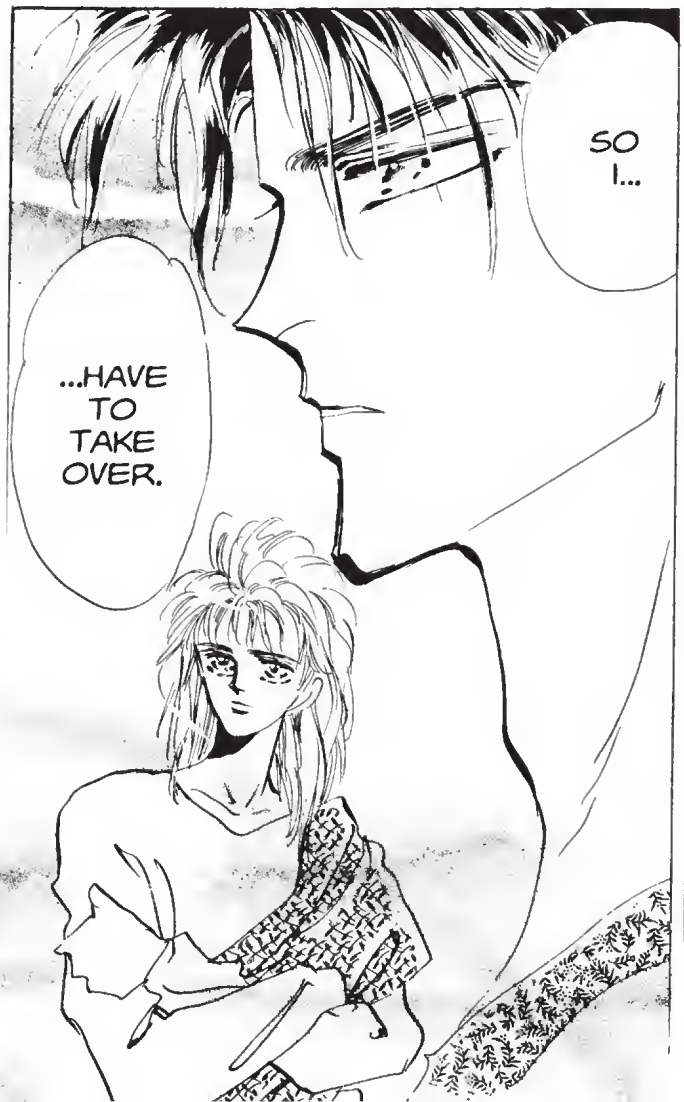
CHARGE!
TATARA!
YEESH!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING YET!
WHAT WAS THAT!?
LET'S GO, OLD KAKU!
HEH HEH
SEE YOU THEN.
VERY CUTE.
HEH
I WILL NOT!
WILL YOU BE HERE TOMOR-ROW NIGHT?
PBBTT
GOOD-BYE!
"SHU-RI"... COULD IT MEAN...
I FEEL HOT.
BA-BUMP
KLOP KLOP
TATARA?
DOES YOUR WOUND HURT?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
..."SCARLET JUSTICE"...?

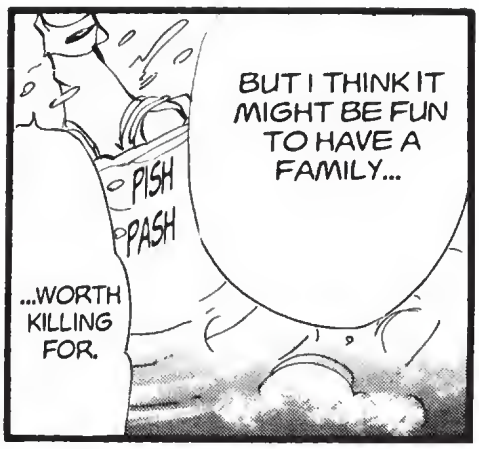
UM... NAGI?
DO YOU THINK...
YUNOKA AND THE OTHERS MADE IT TO THE VALLEY SAFELY?
YOU SHOULD STAY IN BED A FEW MORE DAYS.
I'M STRONGER THAN I LOOK.
WE NEED YOU TO BE HEALTHY.
OH... UM...
YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH.
HUH?
YUNOKA...
SHE WAS SO IN LOVE...
...WITH TATARA.
PEEK
WHAT'S IT LIKE...
...TO BE IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE?
HE... HE'S NOT HERE.

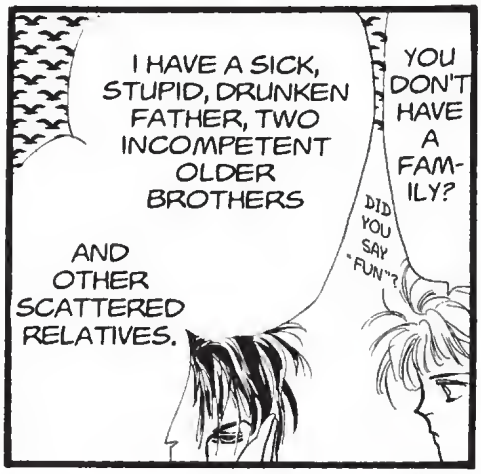
SPURT
WHACK
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
YO!
URK
GRAB
WELL I...
IT WAS YOUR FAULT!
YOU'RE THE ONLY WOMAN WHO'S EVER GIVEN ME A NOSEBLEED.
PSH
DID YOU COME TO SEE ME?
I
DID
NOT!
...CAME TO SEE YOU.
BA-BUMP

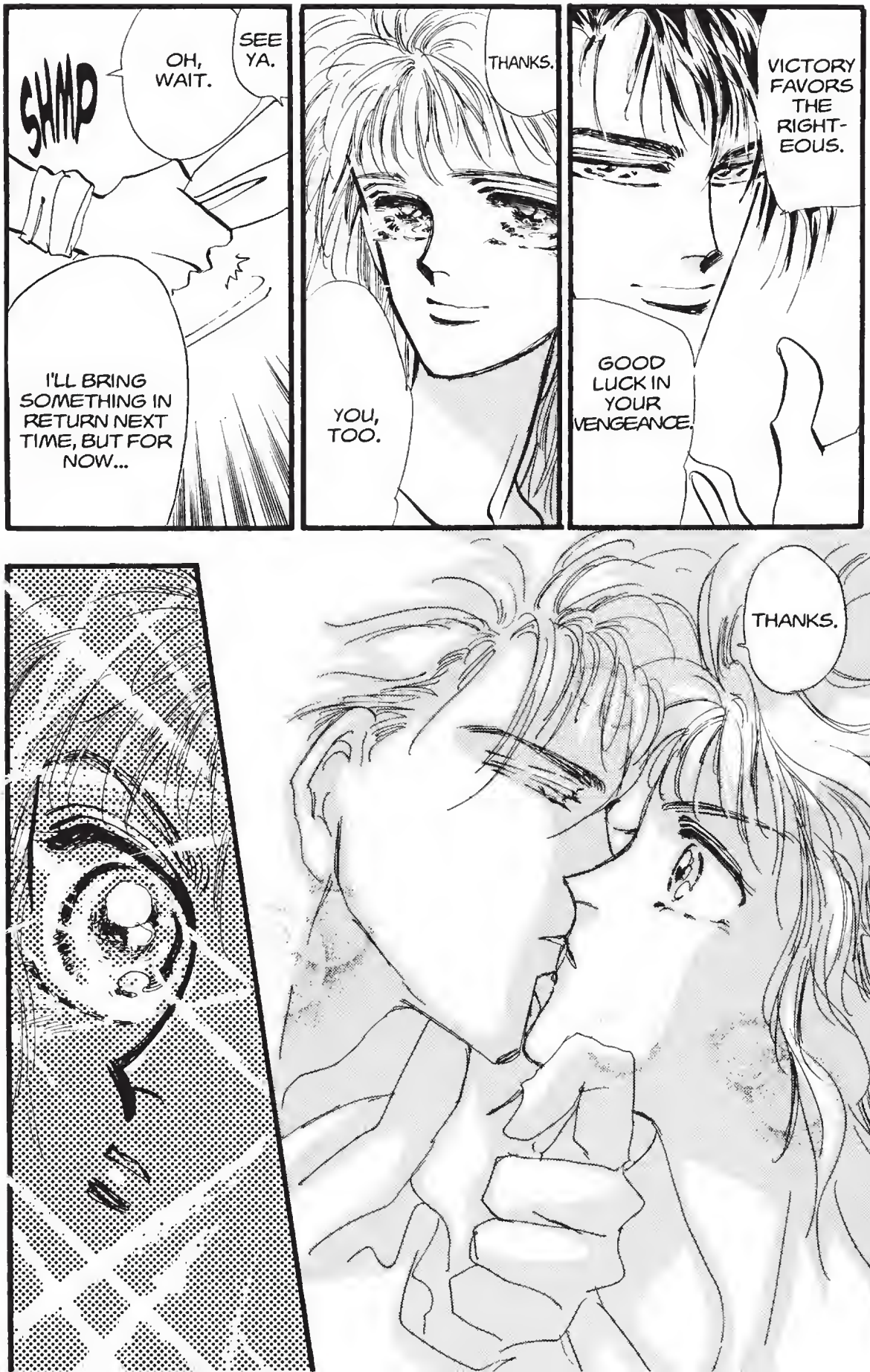

FOR PEOPLE ANYWAY.
STOLE THEM FROM NAGI.
HERE!
FOR YOUR HORSE.
THEY MAKE A GOOD POULTICE.
HERBS.
NOT "BYE."
NO.
BYE.
I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFE OF LUXURY...
...SUCH AS YOU NEVER DREAMED.
SARASA.
COME WITH ME.
I DON'T WANT LUXURY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

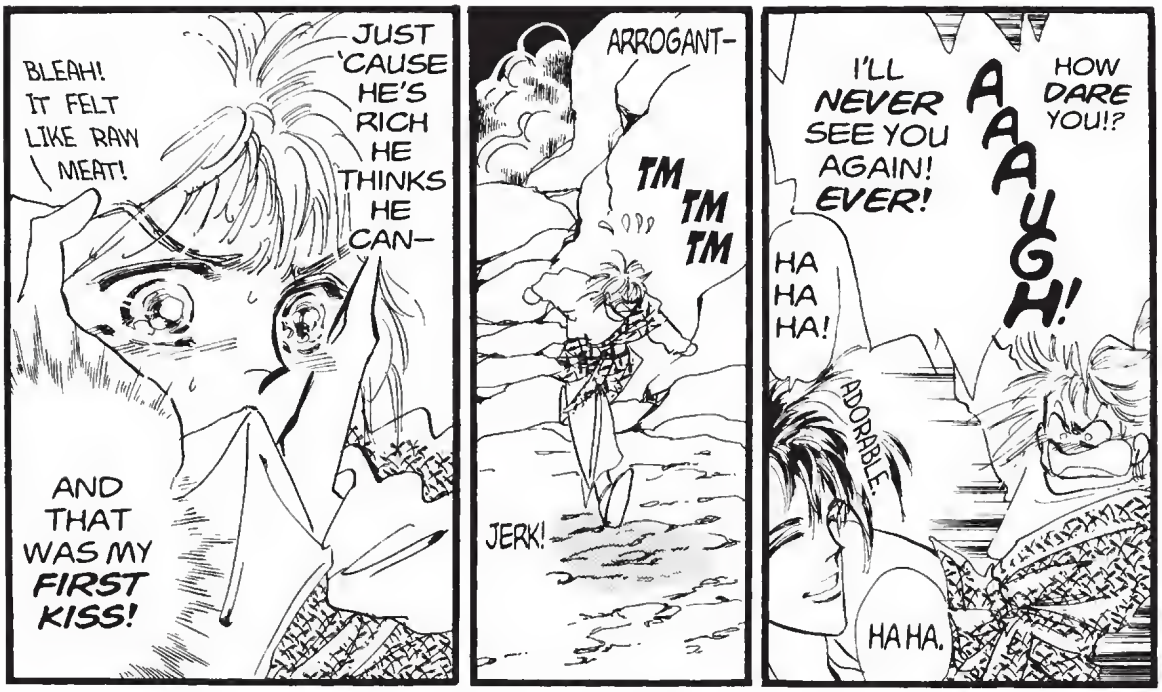

WHAT I WANT...
...IS REVENGE ON THE PEOPLE...
...WHO KILLED MY FAMILY.
THAT'S ALL.
REVENGE!?
REALLY?
A STRANGE WOMAN INDEED.


SO I...
...HAVE TO TAKE OVER.


BUT I THINK IT MIGHT BE FUN TO HAVE A FAMILY...
PISH
PASH
...WORTH KILLING FOR.


I HAVE A SICK, STUPID, DRUNKEN FATHER, TWO INCOMPETENT OLDER BROTHERS
AND OTHER SCATTERED RELATIVES.
YOU DON'T HAVE A FAM-ILY?
DID YOU SAY "FUN"?


VICTORY FAVORS THE RIGHT-EOUS.
GOOD LUCK IN YOUR VENGEANCE.
THANKS.
YOU, TOO.
SEE YA.
OH, WAIT.
SHMP
I'LL BRING SOMETHING IN RETURN NEXT TIME, BUT FOR NOW...
THANKS.

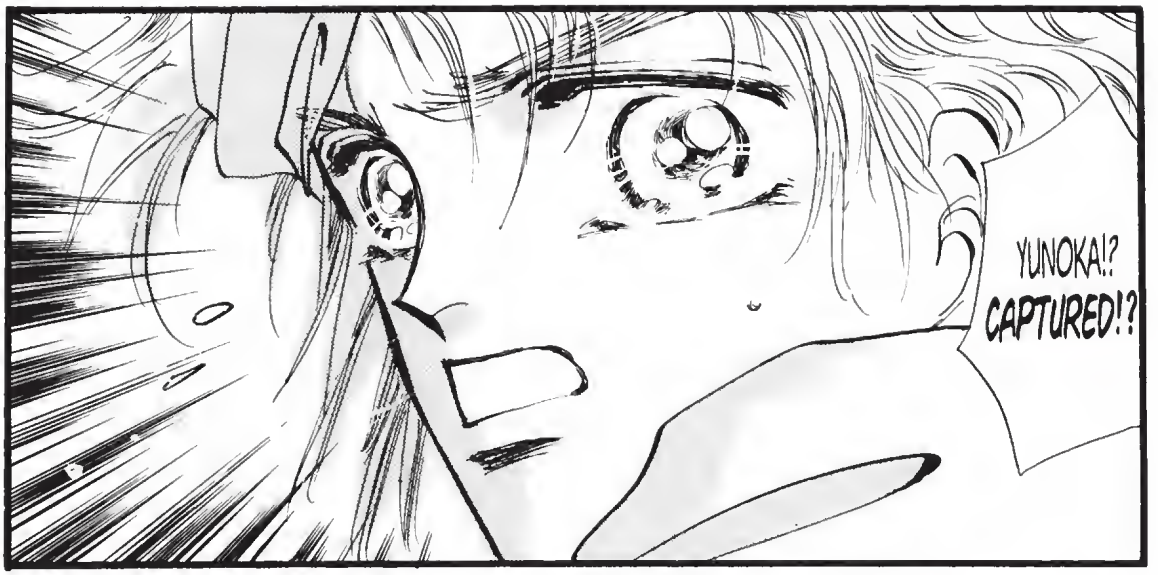

BLEAH! IT FELT LIKE RAW MEAT!
JUST 'CAUSE HE'S RICH HE THINKS HE CAN—
AND THAT WAS MY FIRST KISS!
ARROGANT—
TM TM TM
JERK!
HOW DARE YOU!?
I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN! EVER!
AAAUGH!
HA HA HA!
ADORABLE.
HA HA.

HEH HEH
NEHH
...TAKE OVER.
I WILL HAVE TO...
CHK
CHK
INDEED.

JAPAN NEEDS THE POWER...
...THE POWER OF SHURI-
THE RED KING.

THIS QUARRY IS MINE.
WHERE, SIRE!? I'LL KILL IT, AND WE CAN FEAST!
NO.
I ENCOUNTERED A LIVELY DOE.
TK TK
SIRE, YOU SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD.
HE'S TALKING ABOUT A WOMAN.
AND PROCURE ME A CUCUMBER.
ER... WITHIN TWO WEEKS, SIRE...
TOO SLOW!
FINISH IT IN THREE DAYS.
AND KAZAN!
YES, SIRE!
THE VEGETABLE, SIRE?
SHE LIKES CUCUMBERS?
YOU KNOW ANOTHER CUCUMBER?
ASHO! WHEN WILL THE REPAIRS BE DONE?

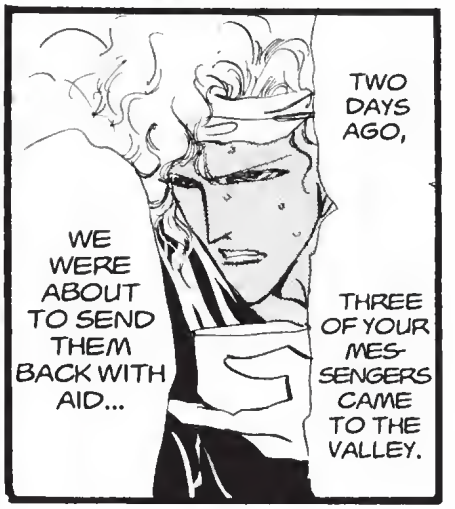
WE'VE GATHERED ABOUT 100 PEOPLE FROM NEIGHBORING VILLAGES.
WE WILL TAKE THEM TO KYOTO VIA TSUYAMA TOMORROW.
HOW GOES THE LABOR ROUNDUP DEMANDED BY THE KING?
WELL, MY LORD!
BY THE WAY, SIRE...
...THERE SEEM TO BE SURVIVORS OF BYAKKO VILLAGE AMONG THEM.
FOOLS!
YOU SHOULD HAVE REPORTED THAT FIRST!
YES... FORGIVE US, SIRE...
.....
TATARA WILL BE COMING.


YUNOKA!?
CAPTURED!?

OUR PEOPLE TOO!?
YES.
THE ELDERS HELPED ME ESCAPE SO I MIGHT BRING WORD OF THIS TO YOU...

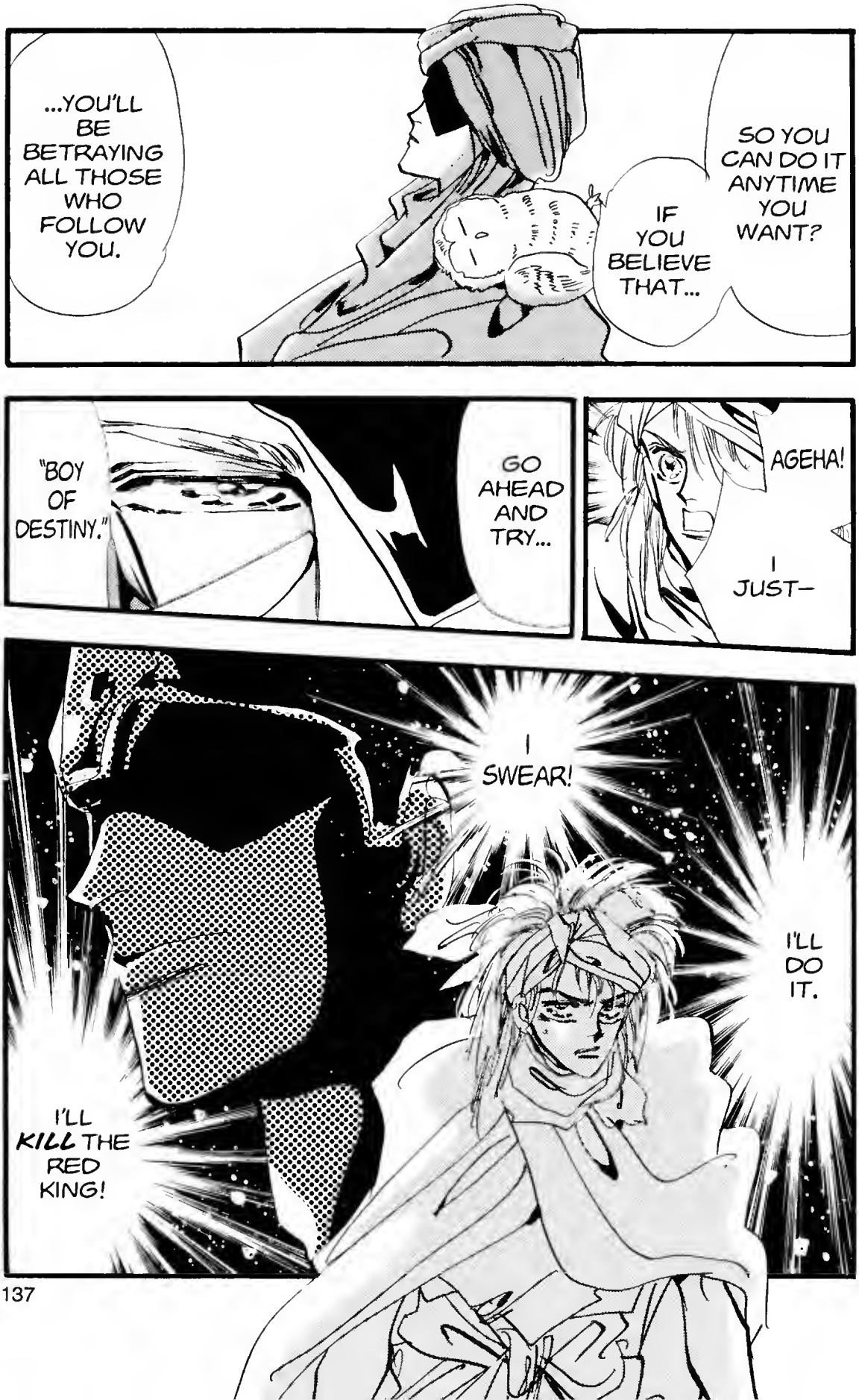
...WHEN GENERAL KAZAN'S RED ARMY SWOOPED DOWN UPON US.
HE TOOK ALL VILLAGERS EXCEPT THE VERY OLD AND VERY YOUNG.

GET HIM WATER!
HFF HFF
YES...
MY NAME IS HISHA
I'M FROM OCHIORI VALLEY.


TWO DAYS AGO,
THREE OF YOUR MES-SENGERS CAME TO THE VALLEY.
WE WERE ABOUT TO SEND THEM BACK WITH AID...

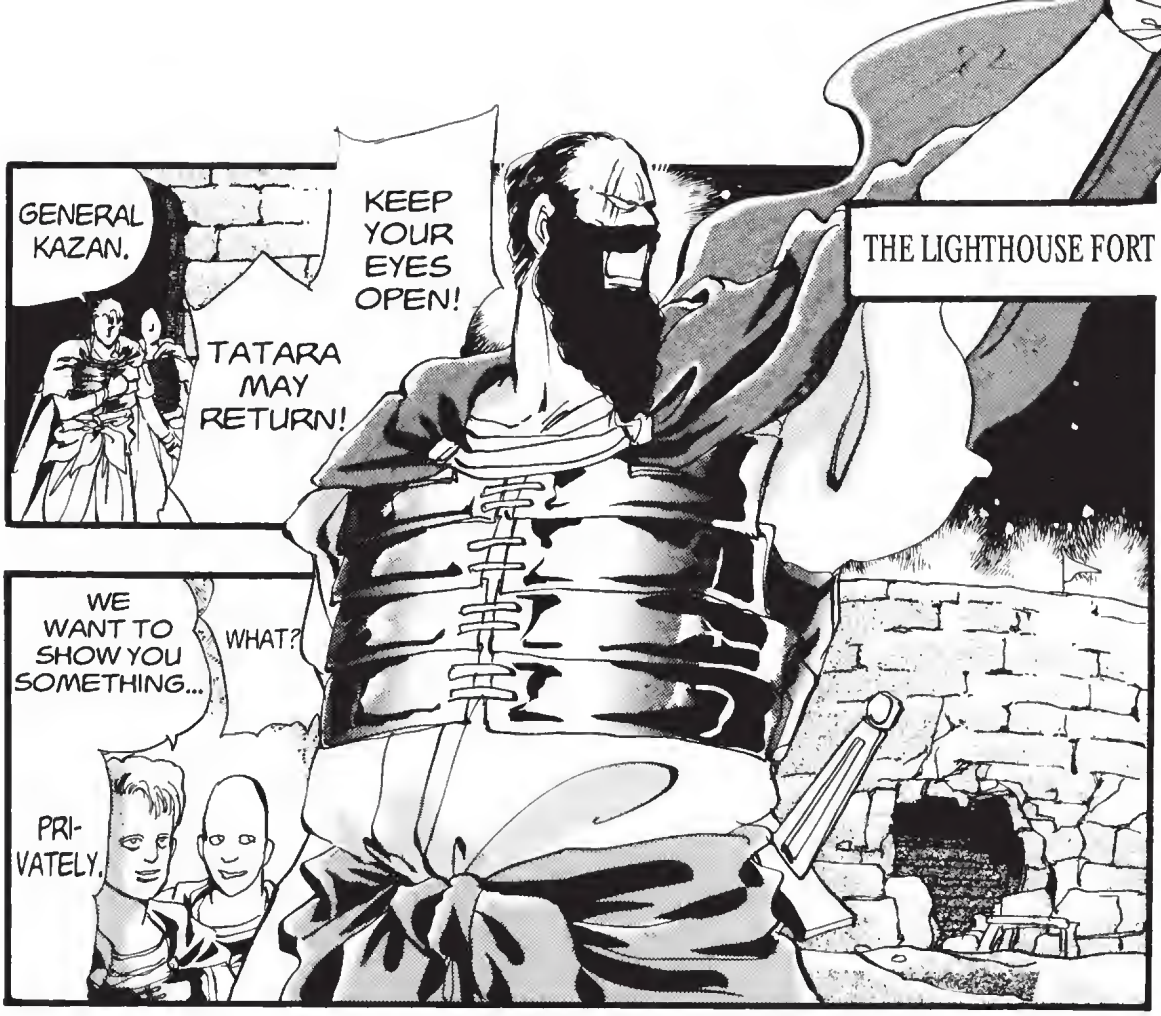
THEY'RE GOING TO ERECT A GREAT STATUE OF BUDDHA.
A GREAT WASTE, OF COURSE.
BUT MEN IN POWER LOVE WASTEFUL SYMBOLS.
I HAVE HEARD
...TO CURE THE KING'S ILLNESS.
THEY ARE BUILD-ING A VAST TEMPLE IN KYOTO...
AGEHA...
ZZZZZ
THEY PROBABLY WON'T COME BACK ALIVE.
CAPTIVE LABORERS WILL BE WORKED UNTIL IT'S FINISHED.
YUNOKA...
SURELY, IF YOU COULD RAID THE LIGHTHOUSE FORT, YOU CAN DO THIS!
SAVE THEM! PLEASE, LORD TATARA!

WE MUST BUILD UP OUR FORCES.
THE TIME IS NOT RIPE, TATARA.
AND YOUR WOUNDS MUST HEAL...
TATARA, WAIT.
HOW? I MEAN...
NOT AGAIN.
I'LL DO IT.
I WON'T LET THAT RED DEMON...
...TAKE ONE MORE LIFE!
I WILL SAVE THEM!
NO!
AFTER ALL, THE CAPTIVES WON'T DIE RIGHT AWAY.
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO YOUR ELDERS.
I'VE GOT TO!
ONCE ALREADY...
I'VE DONE THE IM-POSSIBLE
I'LL FIND A WAY!


...YOU'LL BE BETRAYING ALL THOSE WHO FOLLOW YOU.
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT...
SO YOU CAN DO IT ANYTIME YOU WANT?
"BOY OF DESTINY."
GO AHEAD AND TRY...
AGEHA!
I JUST—
I SWEAR!
I'LL DO IT.
I'LL KILL THE RED KING!

I'LL KILL HIM!

SCARLET TALE 4: CHERRY BLOSSOM REVERIE



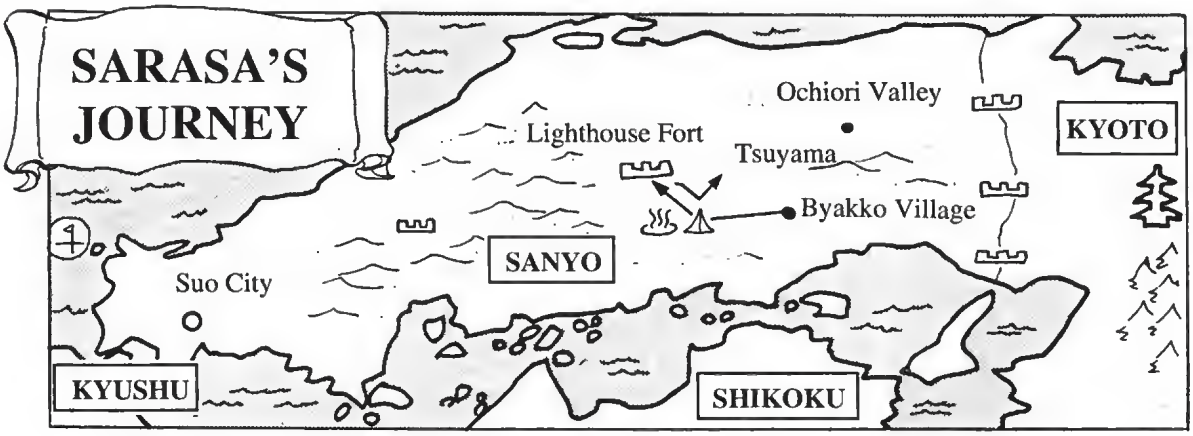
TINY TAM-TAM TIME

HELLO.

To everyone who writes me letters - thank you! To everyone who's reading my manga for the first time - nice to meet you!
Please check out my other comics, too!

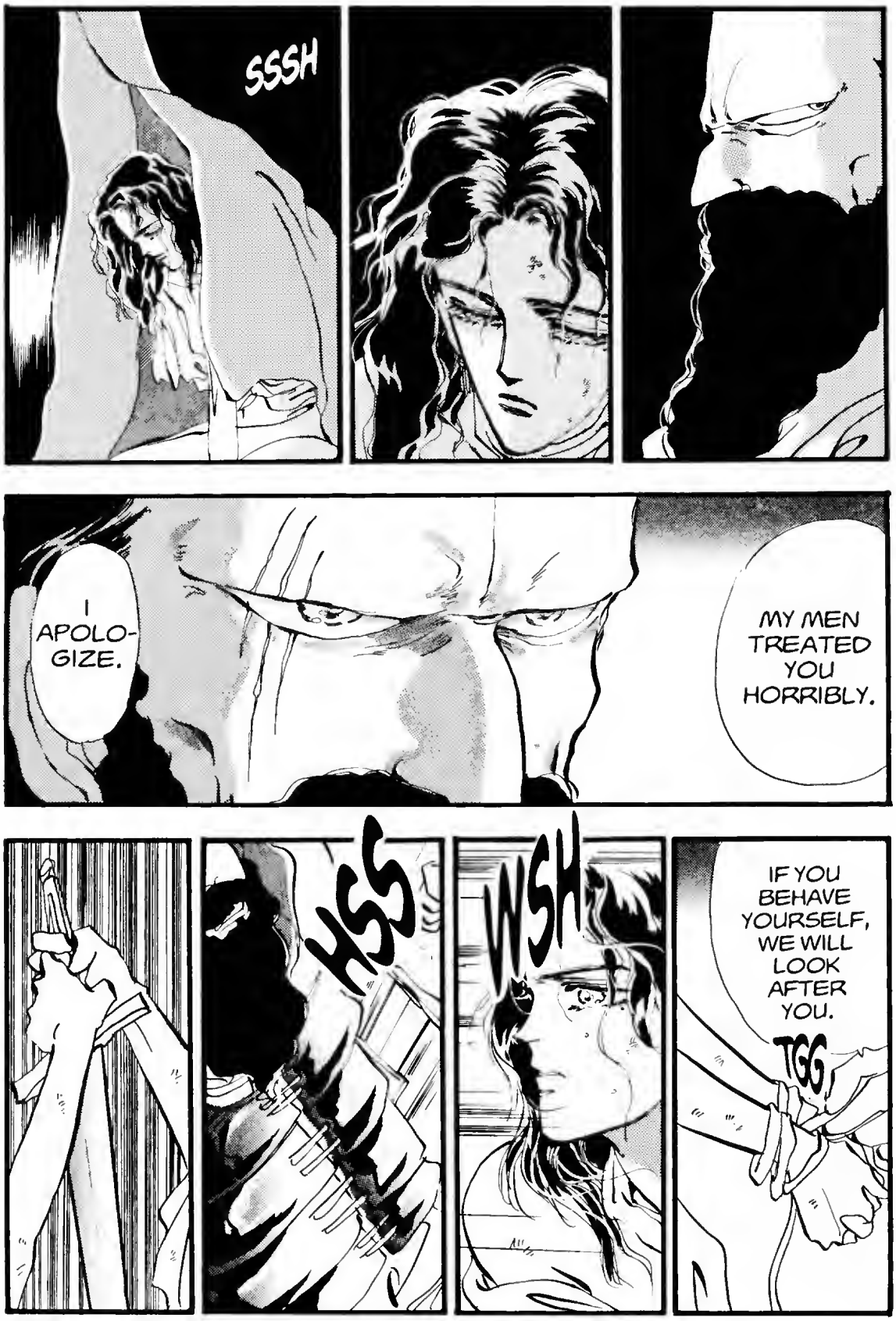
IT'S FEBRUARY, 1991.

I finally got the SNES, and I've been playing Super Mario in between work (or I'm working in between playing!?). I took two weeks to finish it, and now I'm starting on Populous. What RPGs do you recommend? People tell me BASARA is very RPG-like.



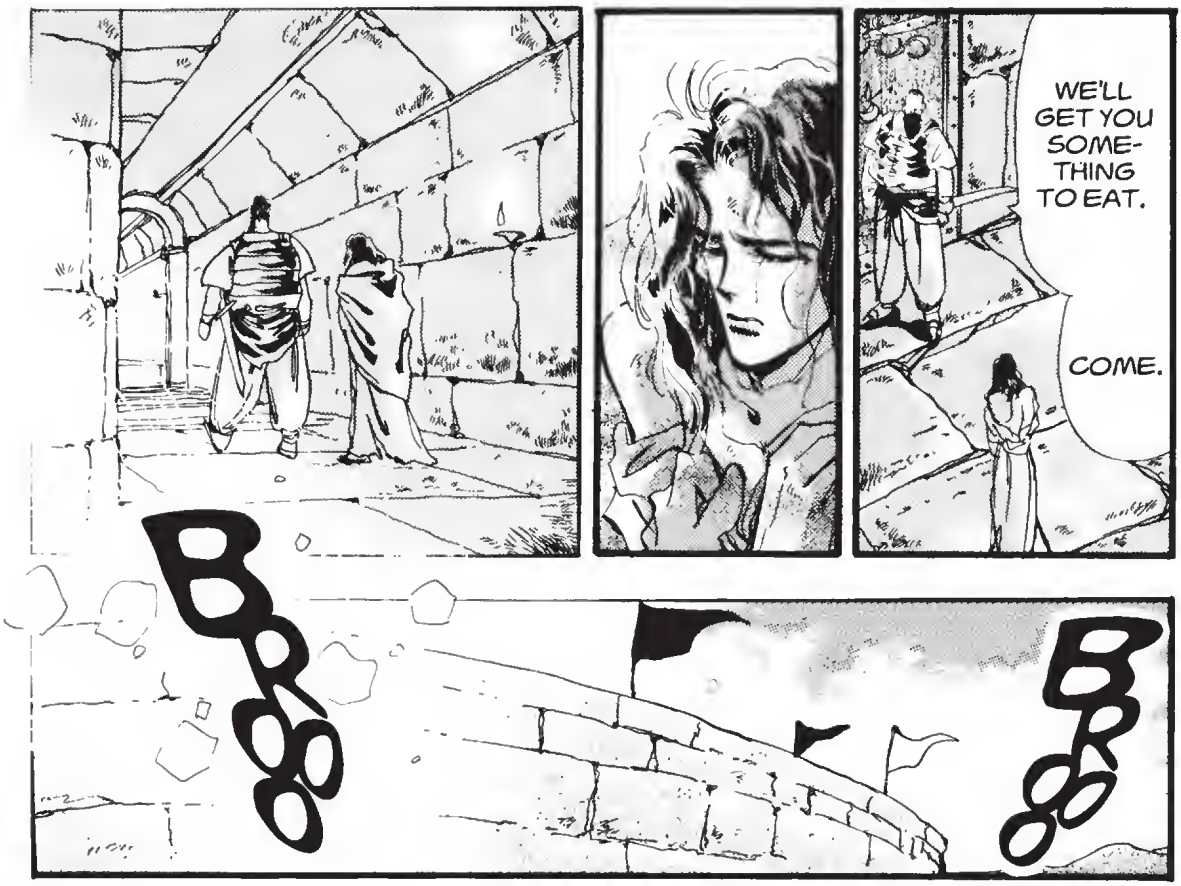
KACHAK
WE WANTED TO SHOW YOU BEFORE TELLING LORD ASHO...
WHO'S THAT!?
PLEASE, NOT SO LOUD.
KACHING
SHE'S TATARA'S MOTHER.

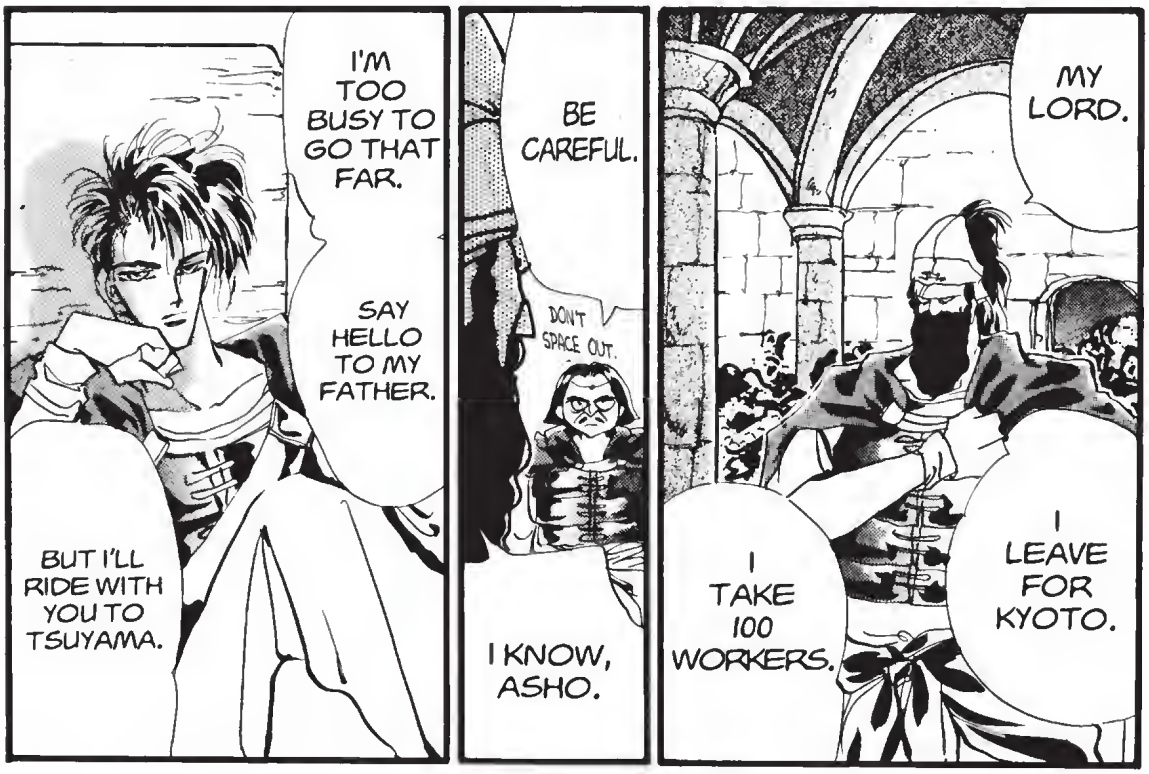
WE WANT YOU TO GET CREDIT FOR HER.
SHE'S KEPT US ENTER-TAINED...
HEH HEH
NOT BAD FOR A COUNTRY WIFE, IS SHE?
TATARA'S... MOTHER!?
FLASH
BACK
YOU DIDN'T EVEN REPORT THIS!?
THIS KIND OF VULGARITY-
-IS WHAT THE RED KING HATES MOST!
PMF


SSSH
I APOLO-GIZE.
MY MEN TREATED YOU HORRIBLY.
HSS
WSH
IF YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF, WE WILL LOOK AFTER YOU.
TGG

DIE IF YOU LIKE.
WE'LL USE YOUR BODY AS BAIT FOR TATARA.
YOU KILLED MY SON!
I'D RATHER DIE!
IF I'M TO BE SHAMED FURTHER—
WE KILL HIM, YET HE KEEPS COMING BACK.
HOW MANY DOUBLES DOES YOUR SON HAVE?
TATA-RA!?
THEN...
IS IT...
SARASA!?
THAT CAN'T BE.
THIS MAN CUT OFF HIS HEAD.
TATARA...
...IS ALIVE?

SARASA!
YOUR MOTHER...
...CANNOT DIE YET.
DID SHE TAKE HIS PLACE!?
...CHILD OF DESTINY?
IS SHE THE TRUE...
KLANG

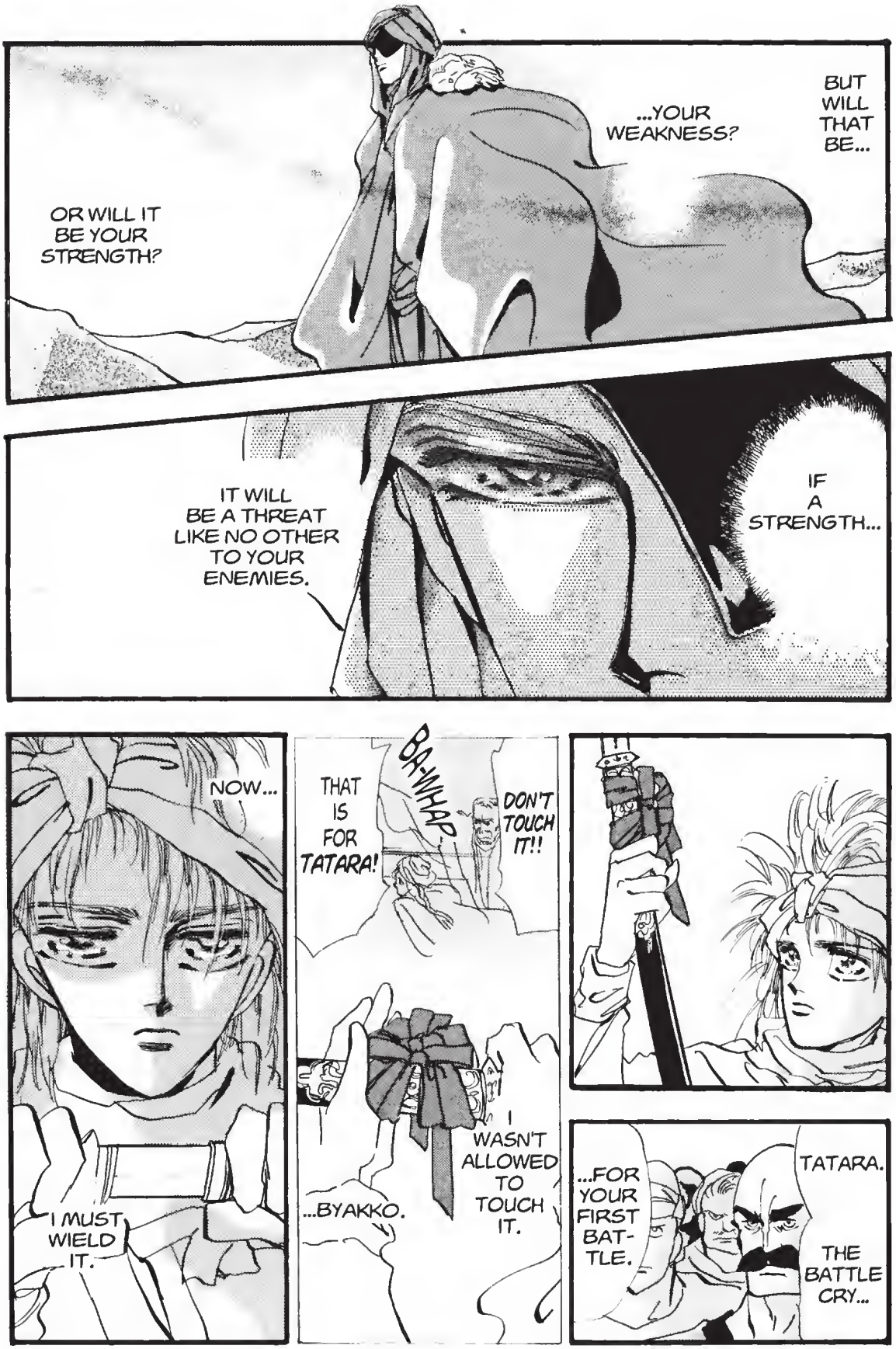

WE'LL GET YOU SOME-THING TO EAT.
COME.
BOOO
BOOO


I'M TOO BUSY TO GO THAT FAR.
SAY HELLO TO MY FATHER.
BUT I'LL RIDE WITH YOU TO TSUYAMA.
BE CAREFUL.
DON'T SPACE OUT.
I KNOW, ASHO.
MY LORD.
I LEAVE FOR KYOTO.
I TAKE 100 WORKERS.

BROOO
GENERAL KAZAN!
DIDN'T GET TO TELL HIM ABOUT TATARA'S MOTHER...
IF TATARA'S GOING TO SHOW UP...
...IT WILL BE THERE.
BROOO
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
YUNOKA
SHK
SHK

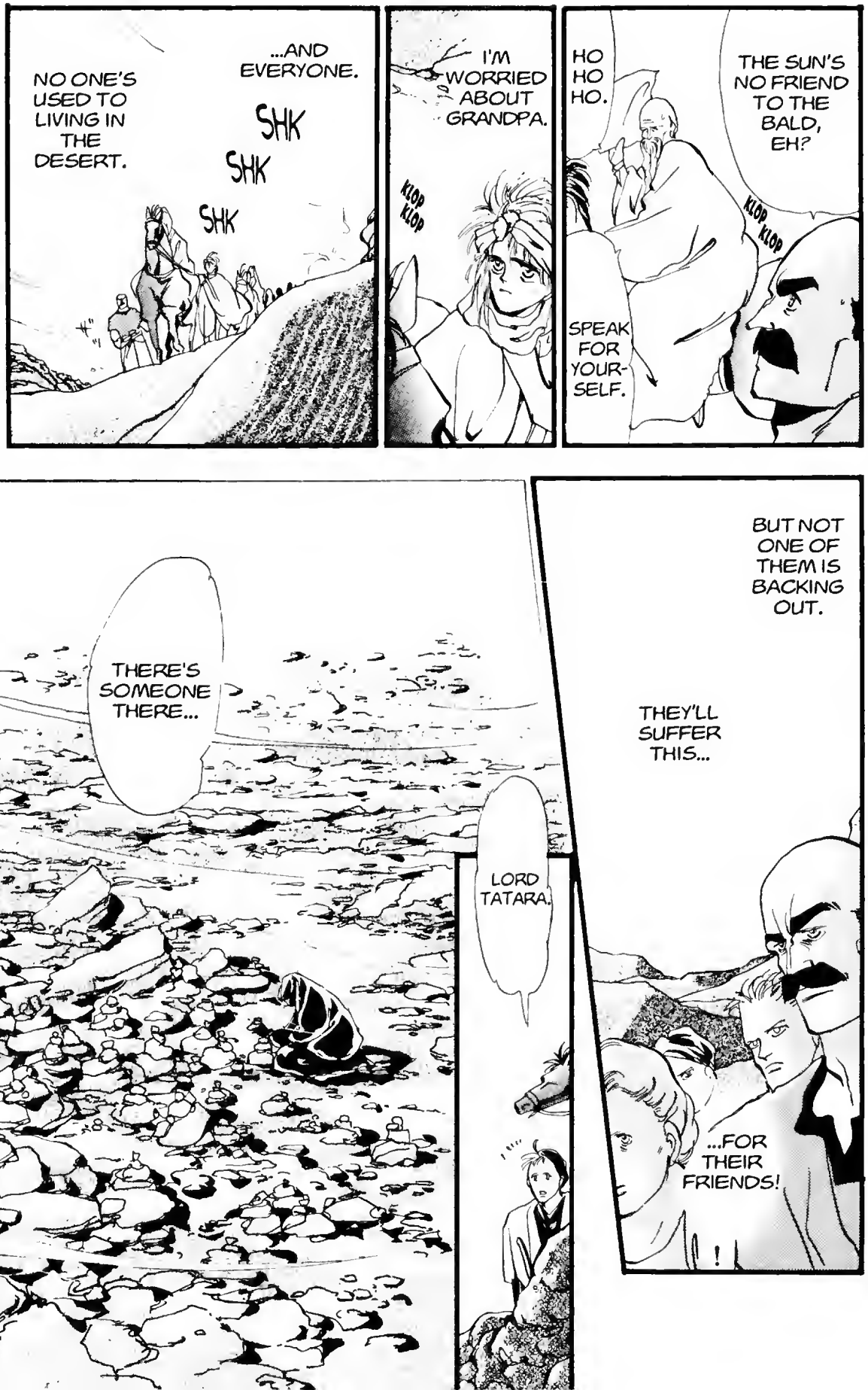
KAZAN AND 30 HORSE-MEN
LEAD 100 LABORERS ON FOOT.
THE RED KING IS GOING TO JOIN THEM LATER!
THE RED ARMY HAS LEFT THE FORT!
YOU'VE BEEN TO THE FORT, HISHA?
LORD TATARA!
TFF
HE'S QUICK!
AND...
WELL DONE. THANK YOU.
WE TRIED TO MAKE ALL THE WEAPONS WE COULD.
WE'RE READY TO LEAVE.
LORD TA-TARA,
WE'VE FOLDED THE TENTS
SO YOU'RE LEAVING...
I'LL MISS YOU... A LITTLE.
WELL. THANKS.
I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW IT ENDS.
BUT I MUST GO TO KYUSHU.
YOU'RE INSANE.
YOU'RE GOING TO ATTACK THE RED KING WITH 20 PEASANTS?
AGEHA...

IF YOU'RE EVER IN TROUBLE,
WE'LL COME TO HELP YOU.
YOU HAVE A SHARP TONGUE,
BUT YOU SAVED US.
WELL,
I EXPECT TO HEAR OF TATARA'S TRAGIC DEATH WHEN I REACH KYUSHU.
PITY THEY SO RARE-LY GROW OLD.
HA!
I LIKE YOUNG OPTI-MISTS!
WE'LL MEET AGAIN IF LUCK SPARES US BOTH.
YOU ARE LOYAL TO YOUR FRIENDS.
BOY OF DESTINY...

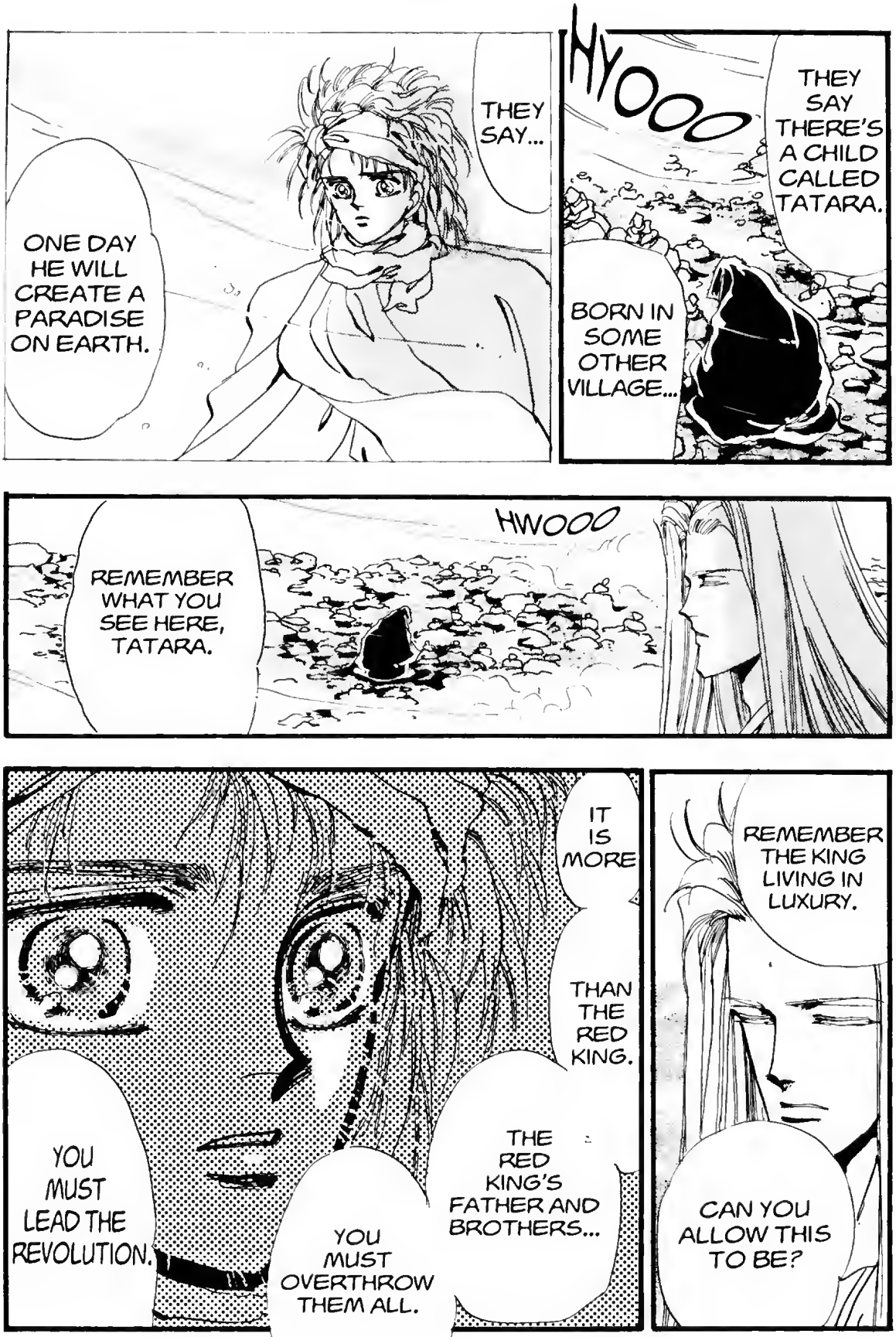

BUT WILL THAT BE...
...YOUR WEAKNESS?
OR WILL IT BE YOUR STRENGTH?
IF A STRENGTH...
IT WILL BE A THREAT LIKE NO OTHER TO YOUR ENEMIES.
NOW...
I MUST WIELD IT.
BA-WHAP
THAT IS FOR TATARA!
DON'T TOUCH IT!!
I WASN'T ALLOWED TO TOUCH IT.
...BYAKKO.
TATARA.
...FOR YOUR FIRST BAT-TLE.
THE BATTLE CRY...

NOOOO!
MY LOVE!
THE CHIEF!
AAAAH!
MAKOTO!
TATARA!
WITH THIS SWORD...
...I WILL KILL...
...THE RED KING!
TO WAR!

WAAAAR!
WE WILL FREE OUR PEOPLE!
STRIKE THE RED ARMY!
I WILL.
HISHA!
KEEP WATCH! REPORT TO ME!
VICTORY FAVORS THE RIGHT-EOUS.
SHK
SHK
...I'M RIGHT!
I KNOW...
I AM RIGHT.
SHH

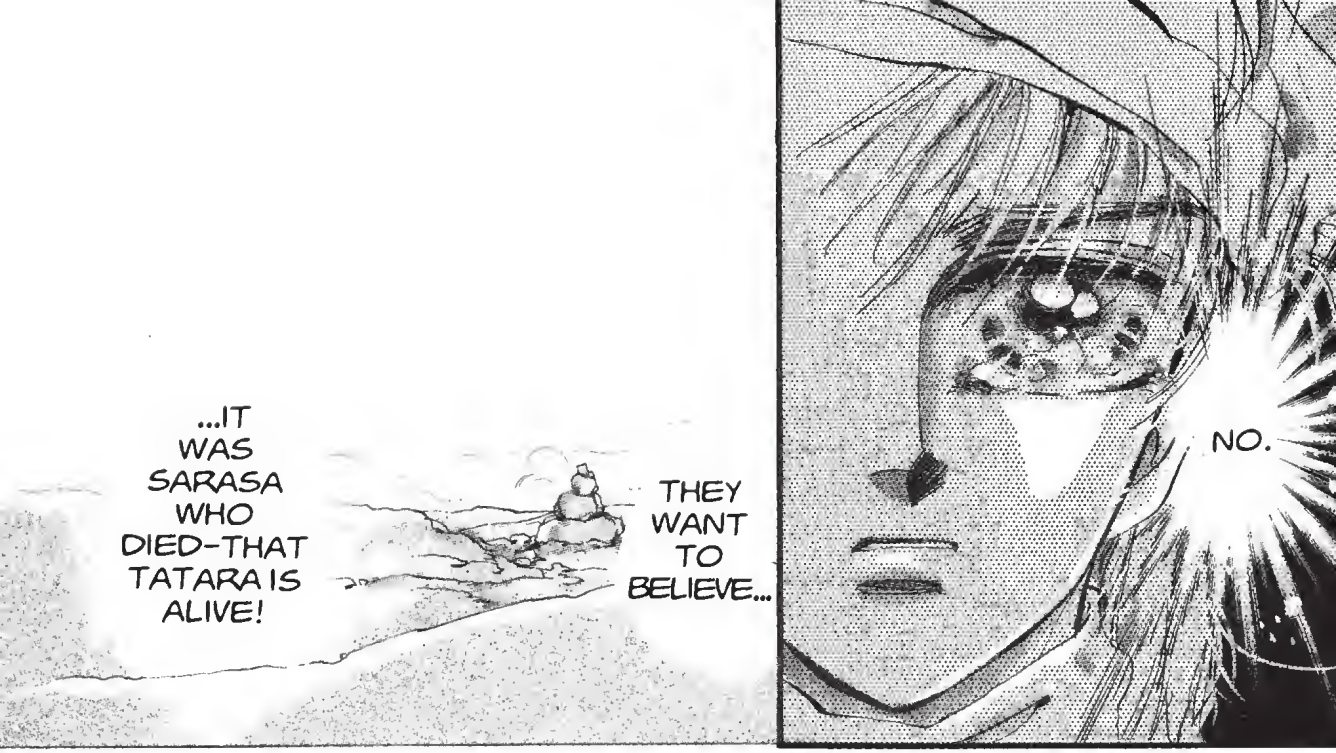

NO ONE'S USED TO LIVING IN THE DESERT.
...AND EVERYONE.
SHK
SHK
SHK
I'M WORRIED ABOUT GRANDPA.
KLOP KLOP
HO HO HO.
THE SUN'S NO FRIEND TO THE BALD, EH?
KLOP KLOP
SPEAK FOR YOUR-SELF.
BUT NOT ONE OF THEM IS BACKING OUT.
THEY'LL SUFFER THIS...
...FOR THEIR FRIENDS!
!
THERE'S SOMEONE THERE...
LORD TATARA.

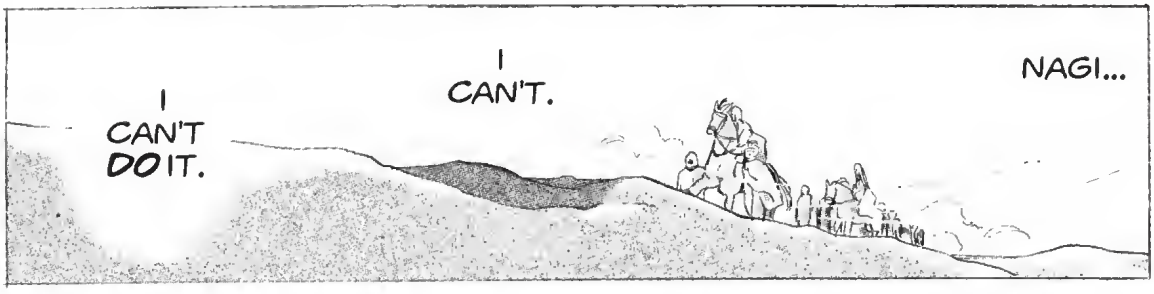
I'M BUILDING GRAVES.
GRAVES.
WHAT... ARE YOU DOING?
TAK
THEY ARE RESTING HERE.
TAK
MY SON. MY GRAND-SON.
ONE BY ONE.
GRAVE BY GRAVE.
I'LL BUILD THEM ALL.
THE RED KING'S ARMY
PUNISHED THEM QUICKLY.
COM-PLETELY.
THE REMAINS OF ASAHI VILLAGE.
FINALLY, THEY ROSE IN REBELLION.
THEY WERE BEING
CRUSHED BY TAXES.

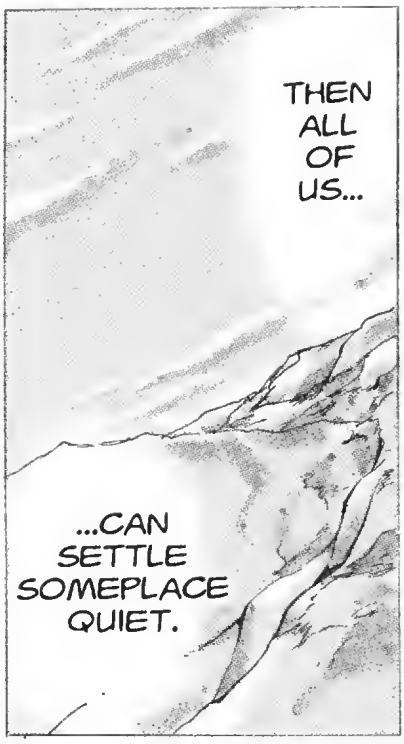

THEY SAY...
ONE DAY HE WILL CREATE A PARADISE ON EARTH.
HYOOO
THEY SAY THERE'S A CHILD CALLED TATARA.
BORN IN SOME OTHER VILLAGE...
HWOOO
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SEE HERE, TATARA.
IT IS MORE
THAN THE RED KING.
THE RED KING'S FATHER AND BROTHERS...
YOU MUST OVERTHROW THEM ALL.
YOU MUST LEAD THE REVOLUTION.
REMEMBER THE KING LIVING IN LUXURY.
CAN YOU ALLOW THIS TO BE?

REVOLUTION!
...UNDER WHICH YOU WERE BORN.
SO SAY THE STARS...
A GRAVE FOR SARASA.
MAKOTO'S MOTHER.
LORD TATARA. I WISH TO MAKE A GRAVE, TOO.
THAT WAS...
NAGI, YOU'RE WRONG.

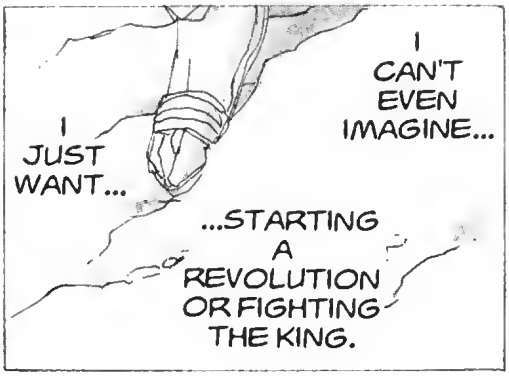
BUT...
I DO GRIEVE FOR LITTLE SARASA.
TAK
I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU LIVED, LORD TATARA.
KLAK
NO ONE EVEN MOURNED FOR HER.
...SHE'S PLAYING WITH MY SON IN HEAVEN RIGHT NOW.
KLAK
I'M SURE...
TATARA WAS TALLER.
OUR VOICES ARE DIFFERENT.
HAVE THEY REALLY NOT NOTICED?
SHH
...ANYONE KNOW?
DOESN'T...


...IT WAS SARASA WHO DIED-THAT TATARA IS ALIVE!
THEY WANT TO BELIEVE...
NO.

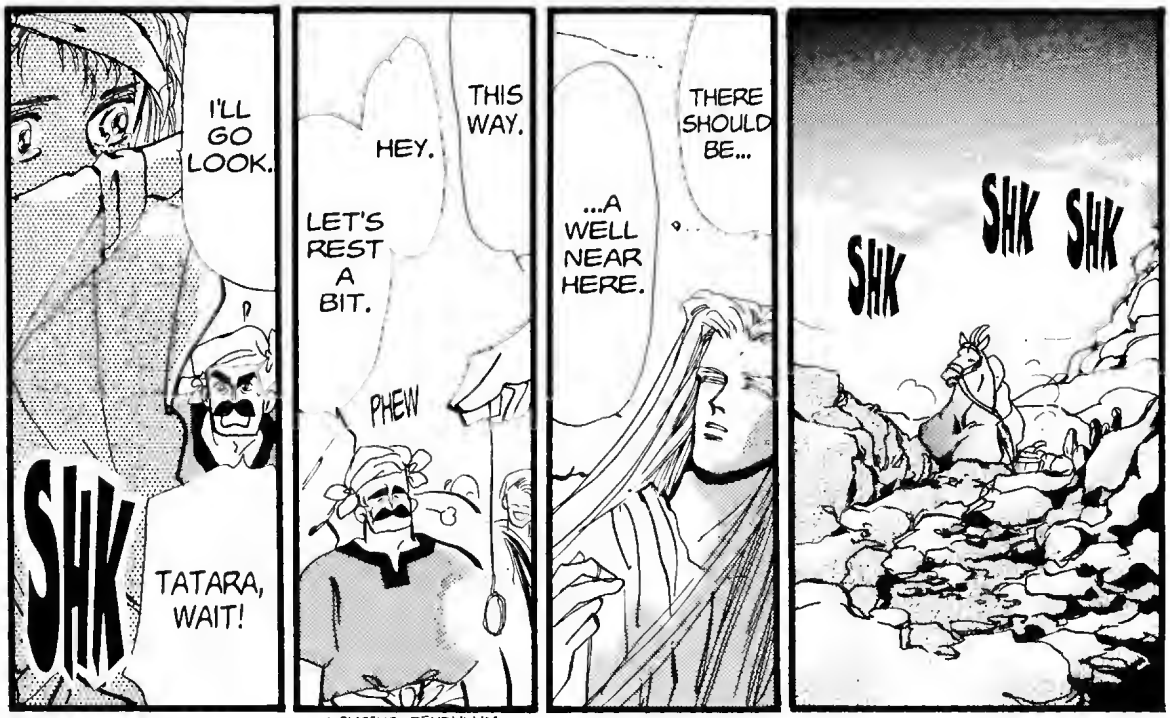

I CAN'T DO IT.
I CAN'T.
NAGI...


THEN ALL OF US...
...CAN SETTLE SOMEPLACE QUIET.

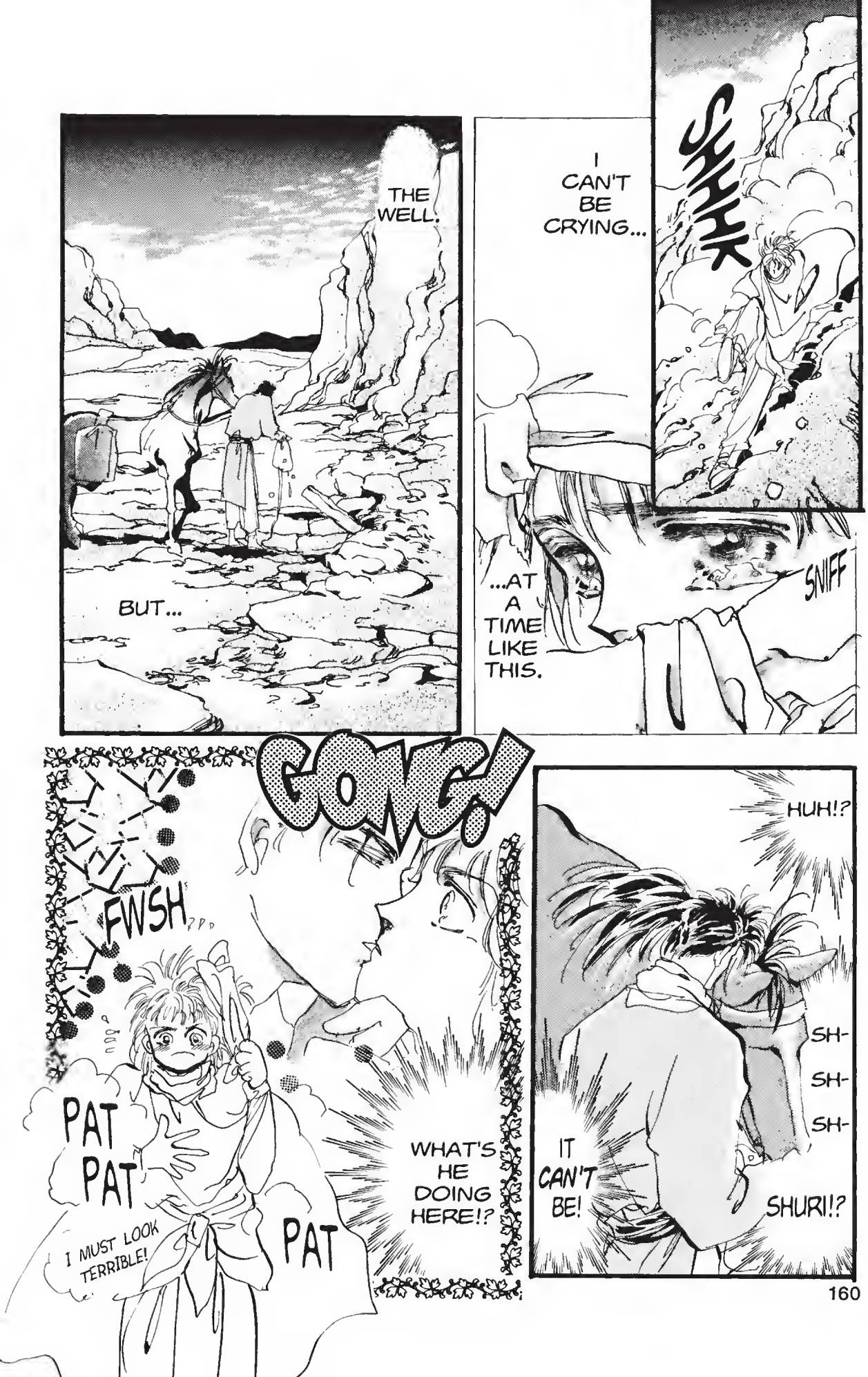
...AND TELL EVERY-ONE...
...I'M SARASA.


I JUST WANT...
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE...
...STARTING A REVOLUTION OR FIGHTING THE KING.

...ON THE RED KING...
I WANT TO TAKE REVENGE...
...TO SAVE YUNOKA AND THE OTHERS.

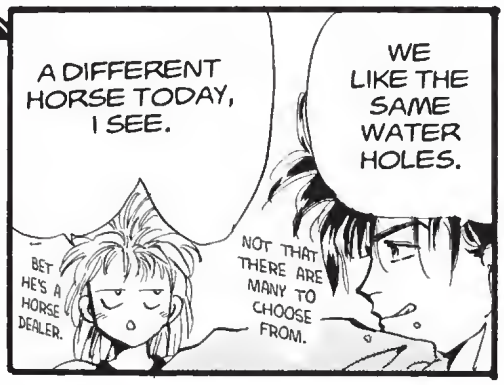


DOUSING PENDULUM
FOR FINDING WATER.

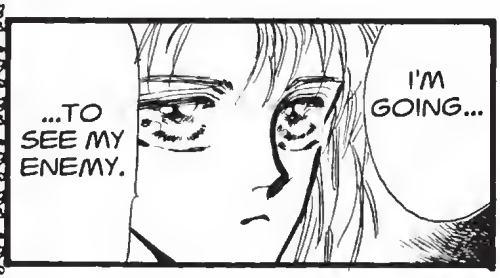

THE WELL.
BUT...
I CAN'T BE CRYING...
SCENE
...AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
SNIFF
HUH!?
SH-
SH-
SH-
IT CAN'T BE!
SHURI!?
GONG!
FWSH
PAT
PAT
PAT
I MUST LOOK TERRIBLE!
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE!?

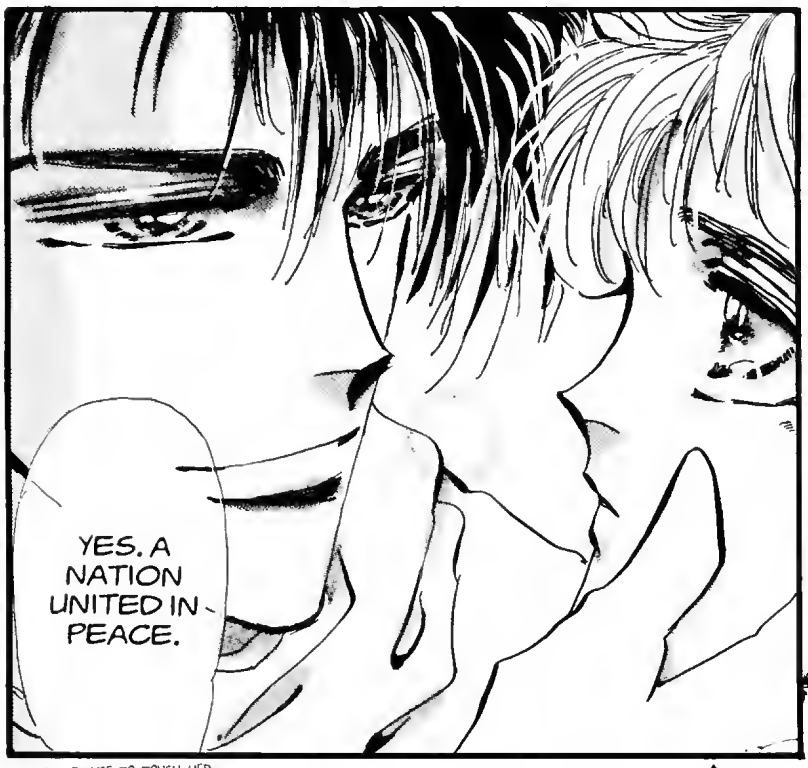
SARASA!?
HI.

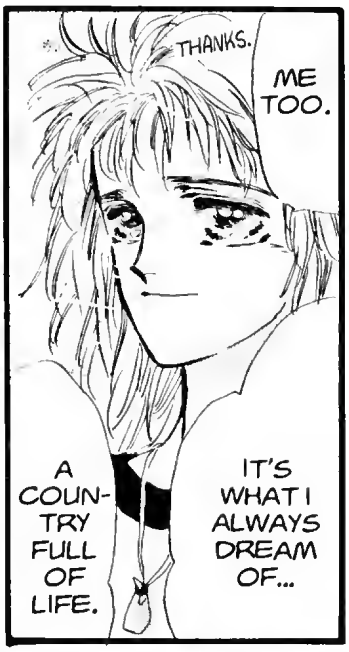
I SEE.
THEN I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
PAYMENT FOR THE HERBS.
THERE ARE SEEDS OF SOME SORT INSIDE.
SUPERSTITION, IF YOU ASK ME.
AN AMULET SOMEONE GAVE ME.


A DIFFERENT HORSE TODAY, I SEE.
WE LIKE THE SAME WATER HOLES.
BET HE'S A HORSE DEALER.
NOT THAT THERE ARE MANY TO CHOOSE FROM.

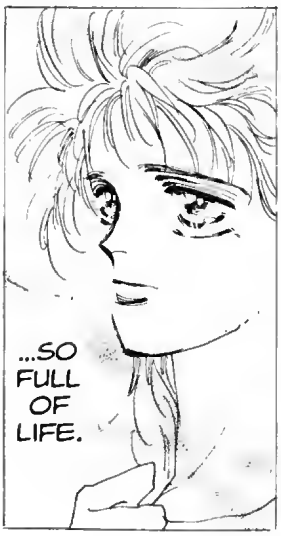
YOU?
I HAVE BUSINESS A LITTLE WAYS AHEAD. THEY KEEP ME RUNNING.


...TO SEE MY ENEMY.
I'M GOING...

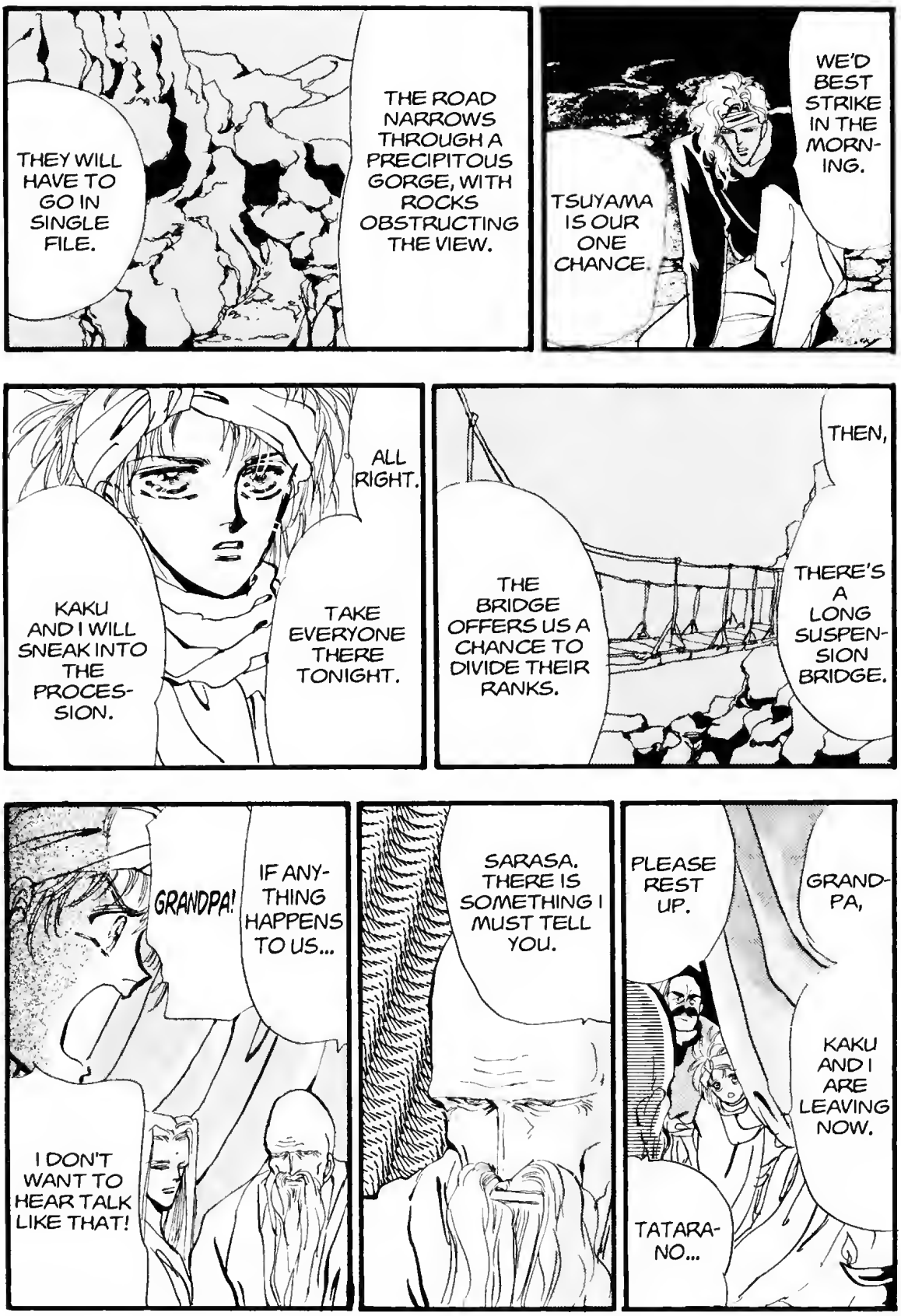


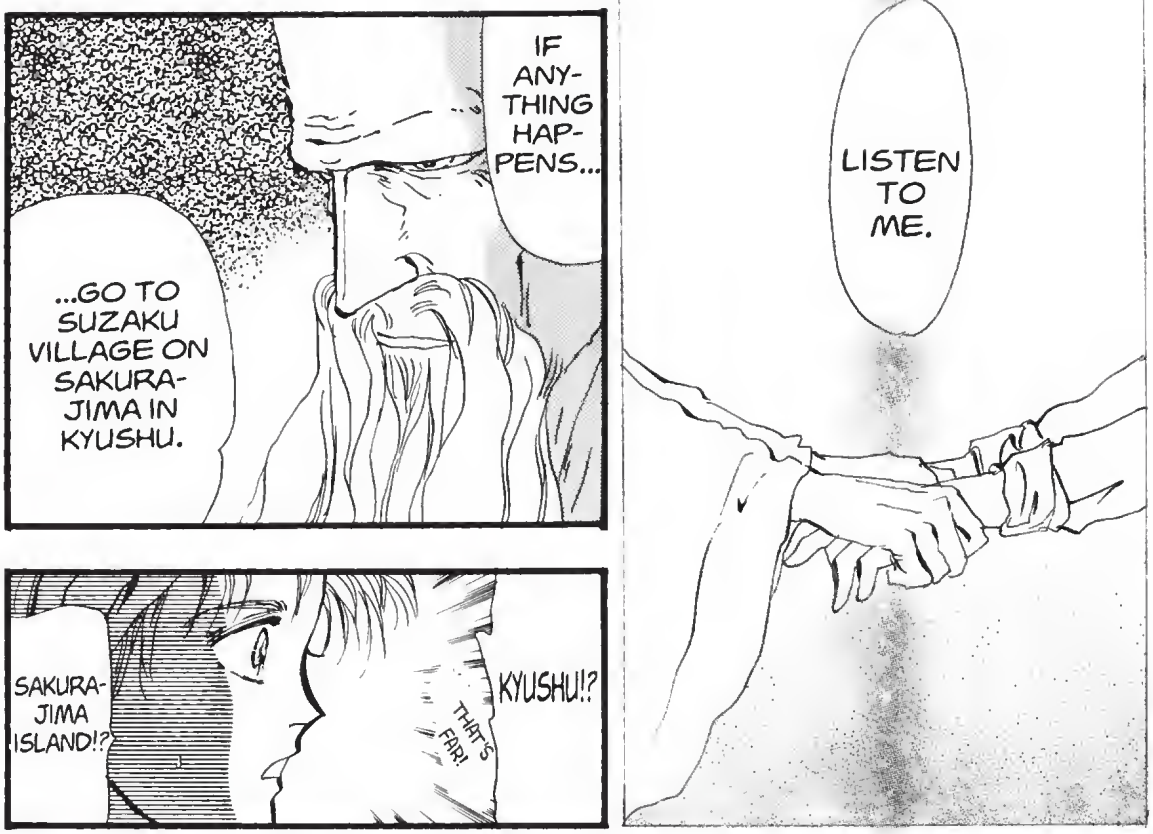


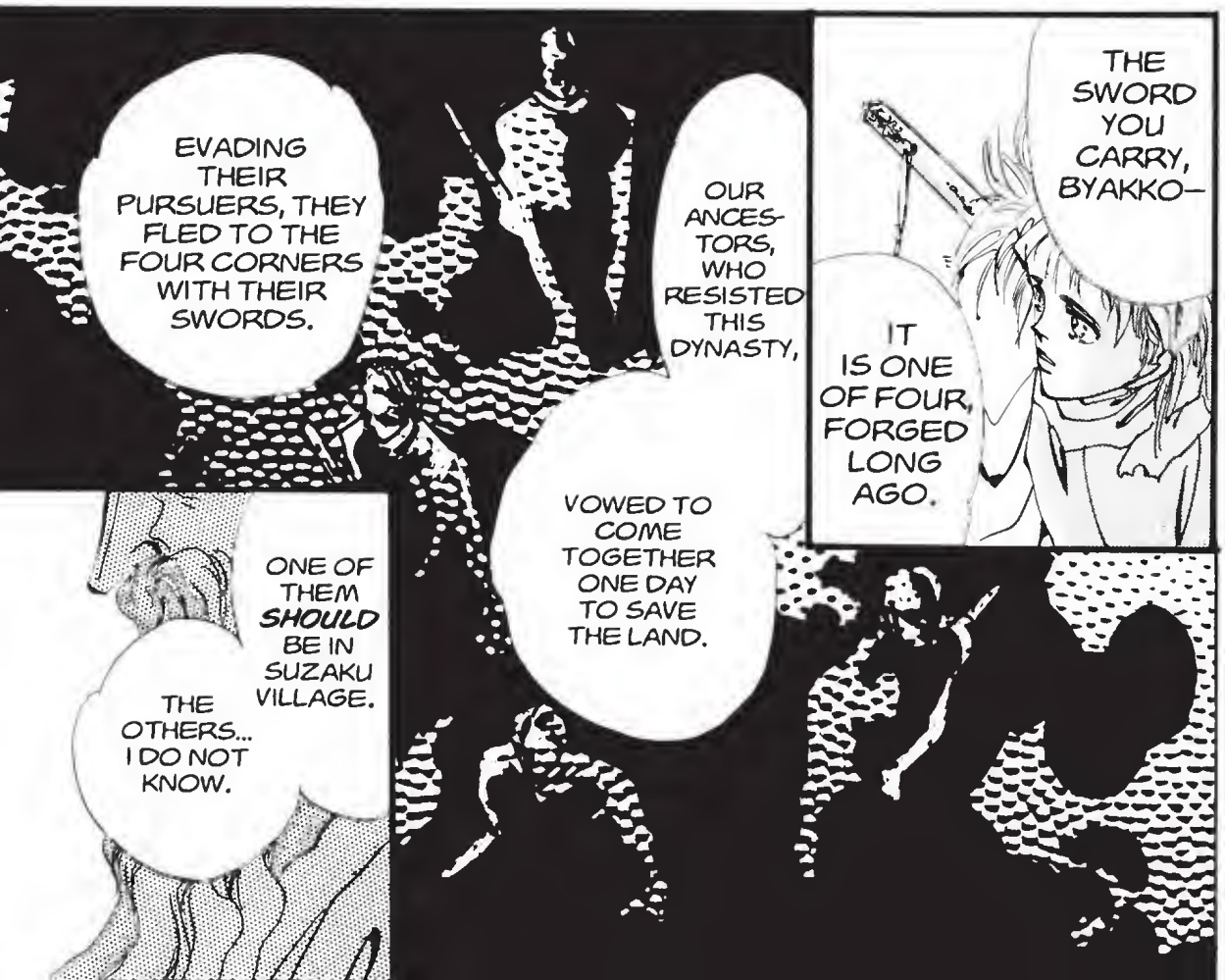
PERFECT EXCUSE TO TOUCH HER.



...UNITED IN PEACE."
AND WHO STANDS IN MY WAY?
TATARA!
THE RED KING!
LORD TATARA!
THE RED KING HAS JOINED HIS ARMY.
THEY'RE ENCAMPED NEAR TSUYAMA.


THEY WILL HAVE TO GO IN SINGLE FILE.
THE ROAD NARROWS THROUGH A PRECIPITOUS GORGE, WITH ROCKS OBSTRUCTING THE VIEW.
TSUYAMA IS OUR ONE CHANCE.
WE'D BEST STRIKE IN THE MORNING.
KAKU AND I WILL SNEAK INTO THE PROCESSION.
ALL RIGHT.
TAKE EVERYONE THERE TONIGHT.
THE BRIDGE OFFERS US A CHANCE TO DIVIDE THEIR RANKS.
THEN,
THERE'S A LONG SUSPENSION BRIDGE.
GRANDPA!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO US...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR TALK LIKE THAT!
SARASA. THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU.
PLEASE REST UP.
GRANDPA,
KAKU AND I ARE LEAVING NOW.
TATARANO...


LISTEN TO ME.
IF ANY-THING HAP-PENS...
...GO TO SUZAKU VILLAGE ON SAKURA-JIMA IN KYUSHU.
KYUSHU!?
THAT'S FAR!
SAKURA-JIMA ISLAND!?

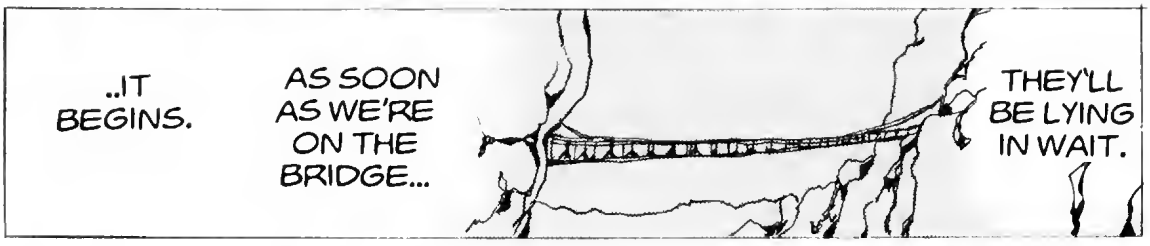

THE SWORD YOU CARRY, BYAKKO—
IT IS ONE OF FOUR, FORGED LONG AGO.
OUR ANCES-TORS, WHO RESISTED THIS DYNASTY,
VOWED TO COME TOGETHER ONE DAY TO SAVE THE LAND.
EVADING THEIR PURSUERS, THEY FLED TO THE FOUR CORNERS WITH THEIR SWORDS.
ONE OF THEM *SHOULD* BE IN SUZAKU VILLAGE.
THE OTHERS... I DO NOT KNOW.

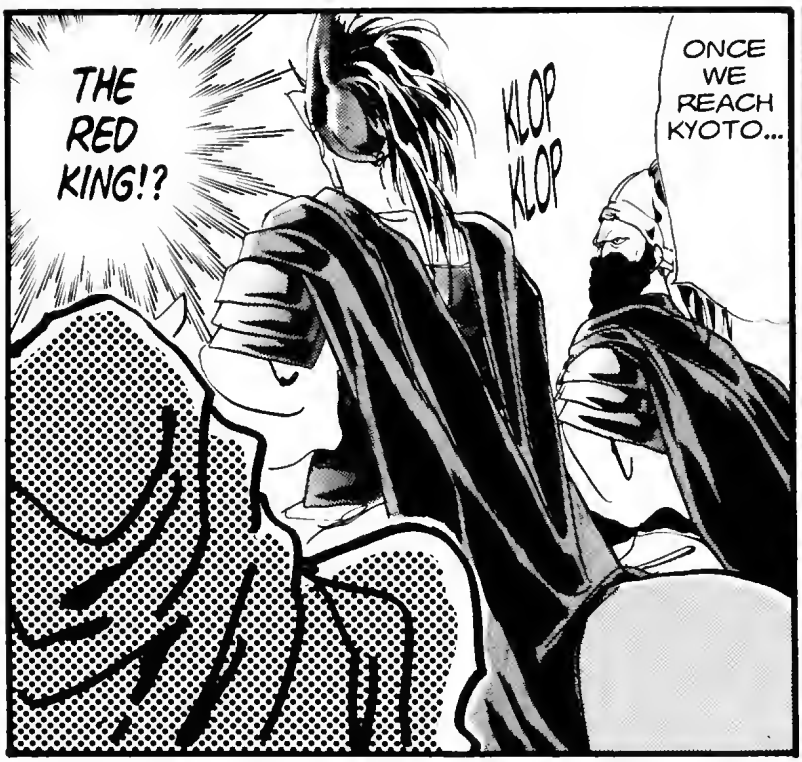
BUT BY UNITING THOSE WHO WIELD THEM...
THEIR SOULS...
...YOU MAY FORGE A POWER GREAT ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE KING.
GATHER THE FOUR SWORDS, TATARA.
THE SWORDS ARE ONLY THAT—
SWORDS.
I UNDER-STAND.
.....
I SEE.
YOU MAY PERCEIVE FATE, BUT YOU CANNOT CHANGE IT.
ARE THE EVENTS OF THE MORROW VISIBLE TO YOU?
SSS
...NAGI.
KAKU,
COMING.
LET'S GO.
WE'RE JOINING THAT PROCES-SION!

MOVE FASTER, OR YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO KYOTO.
SHK SHK SHK
MARCH!
MARCH!
LORD TA-TARA!?
YUNOKA...
WE'RE COMING.
SHK SHK
TATARA! WAIT UNTIL THE BRIDGE.
!
SHAK!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE TRAIL!
EEK!
?

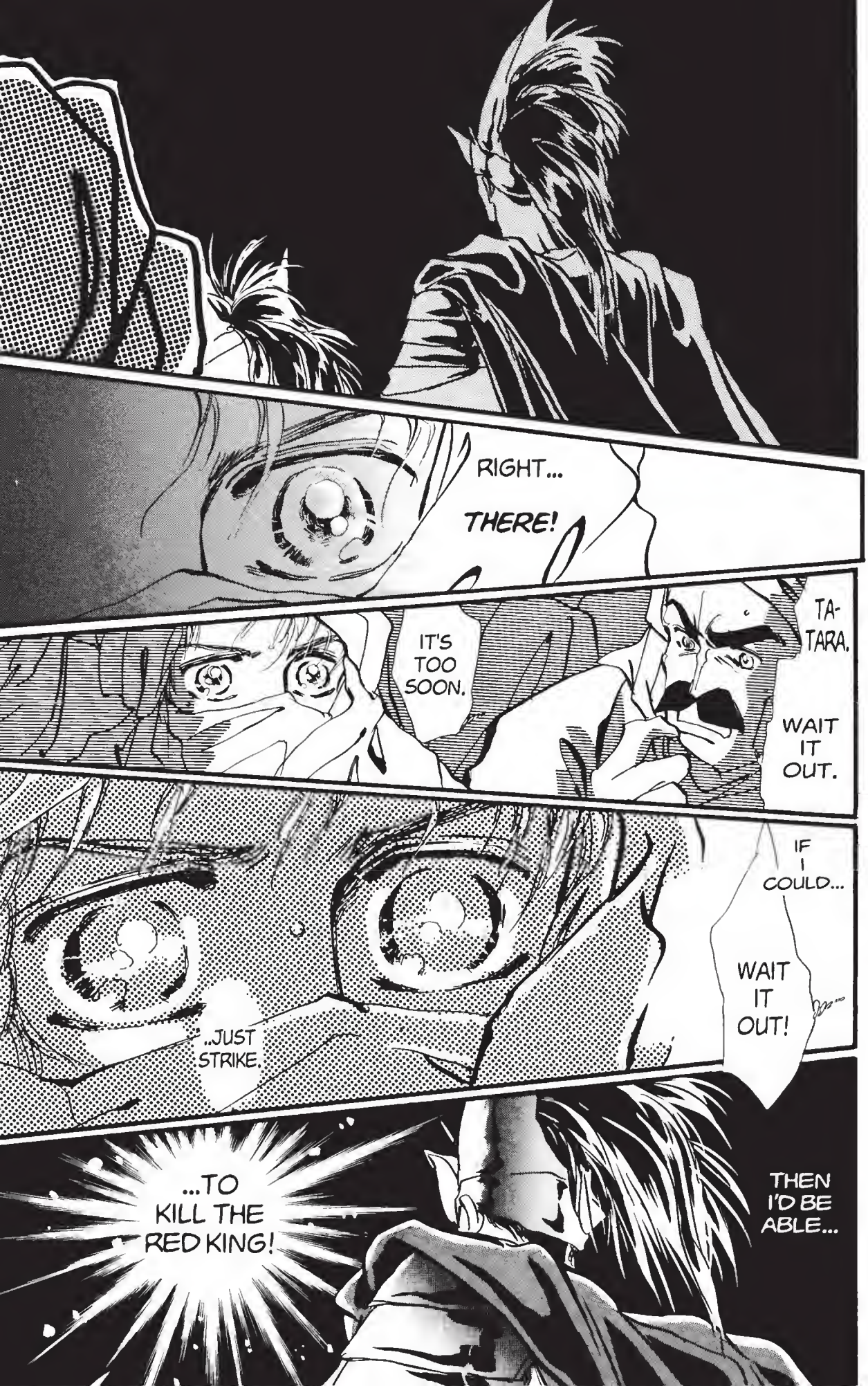
LOOSE ROPES.

TSUYAMA GORGE.


..IT BEGINS.
AS SOON AS WE'RE ON THE BRIDGE...
THEY'LL BE LYING IN WAIT.


THE RED KING!?
KLOP KLOP
ONCE WE REACH KYOTO...

SIRE, ABOUT THE MATTER IN QUESTION...
KLOP KLOP


RIGHT...
THERE!
IT'S TOO SOON.
TA-TARA.
WAIT IT OUT.
IF I COULD...
WAIT IT OUT!
..JUST STRIKE.
...TO KILL THE RED KING!
THEN I'D BE ABLE...

NOO!
B-BUMP
B-BUMP
B-BUMP
B-BUMP
RED KING–
FARE THEE WELL!!

HEH...
HEH...
AHA HA HA!
I...
DID IT.

SKWIP
WHAT!?
IT'S NOT THE RED KING?
SHUU
THOUGHT YOU'D INFILTRATED US, EH?
HA HA HA!
YOU FELL FOR IT!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU KILLED?
LOOK, TATARA!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.
THERE IS OUR LORD!
WE TOOK A TRICK FROM YOU!
WE PREPARED A DOUBLE!
DIE, TATARA!
HA HA HA!

KA-
TANG
TATARA!
LORD TATARA!
AAAAA!
YUNOKA!

TATARA!
NOOO!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
HA HA HA HA!
I DON'T CARE WHO DOES IT!
KILL HIM!
THWACK
RUN!
RUN TO THE BRIDGE!
THK
GO!
TFF
LORD TATARA!
HISHA! GET TATARA, QUICK!

TATARA!
HURRY!
HFF
FFT
FFT
FFT
HFF
HA HA HA HA
KTA KTA
HFF
RUN!
HFF
KTA
KTA
KTA
HFF
KLOMP
KLMP
LORD TATARA!
KATOK
KATOK
HFF
HFF

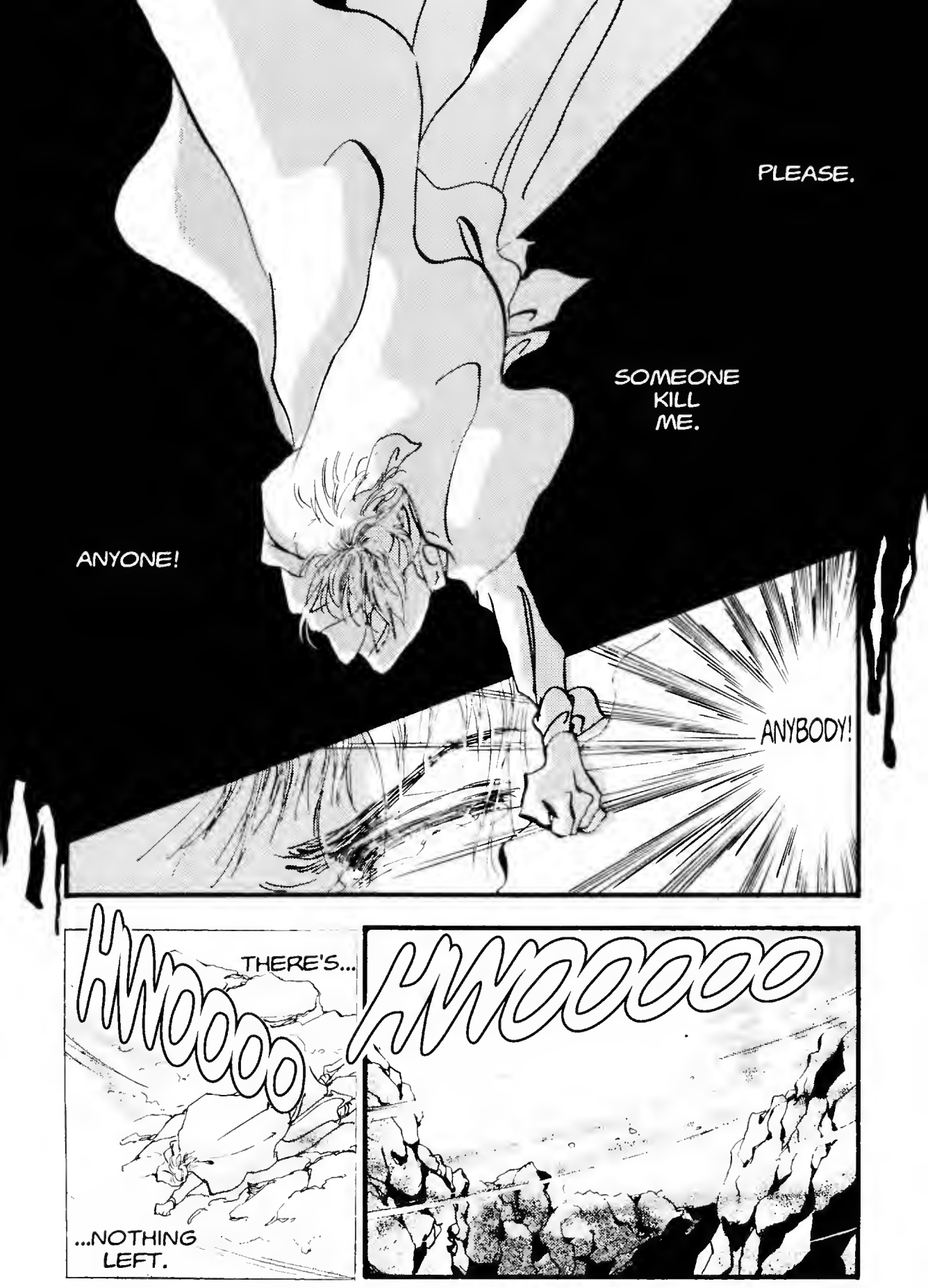
TATARA... HURRY!
HFF
HFF
HWIIIN
STAND FIRM!
FFT
ZFF
FIRE!!
FFT
FIIIRE!
DRIVE THEM BACK!
ZFF
KRIIK
KRIIK
TOK TOK
WHO ARE YOU?
GRANDPA?
.....
TOK
GO THERE.
TA-TARA.
GO TO SAKURA-JIMA.

YOU KILLED OUR VILLAGE
I DIED ALONG WITH THEM.
BUT THE YOUNG...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
ZZK
HANG ON TIGHT, TATARA.
NO...
...STILL HAVE A FUTURE AHEAD OF THEM.
GRANDPA!
ZSSH
YOU SENILE OLD FOOL!!

KRRK
SMACK
EEE!
YAAA!
OHH!
SLASH
SNAP
GRANDPA!!
UNNNG
HEH.
I CALL THIS...
...A GOOD DEATH.

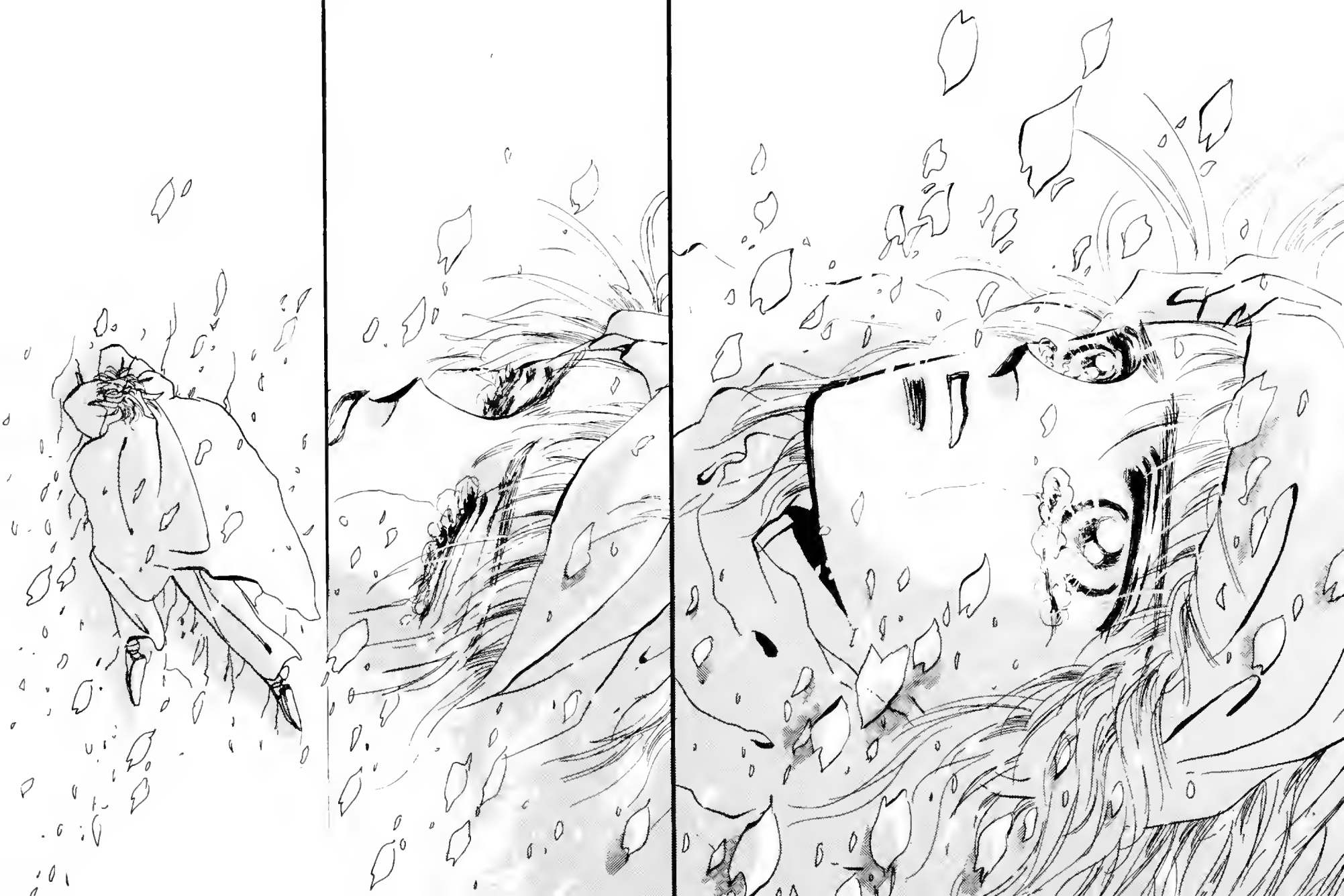
KAKU!
NO!
KAKU!
HOLD ON!
KRAK
NOOO!
LORD TATARA!
CLIMB UP!
LORD... TATARA.
LORD TATARA!
LORD TATARA!
HFF HFF

YOU...
WILL BRING...
YUNOKA...
YUNOKA!
...THE NEW LAND...
I DID...
WANT TO SEE...
WAIT!
I TRIED TO SAVE THEM.
WHY IS EVERYONE LEAVING ME!?
I TRIED...
NOOO!


PLEASE.
SOMEONE KILL ME.
ANYONE!
ANYBODY!
HWOOOO
THERE'S...
...NOTHING LEFT.
HWOOOOOO

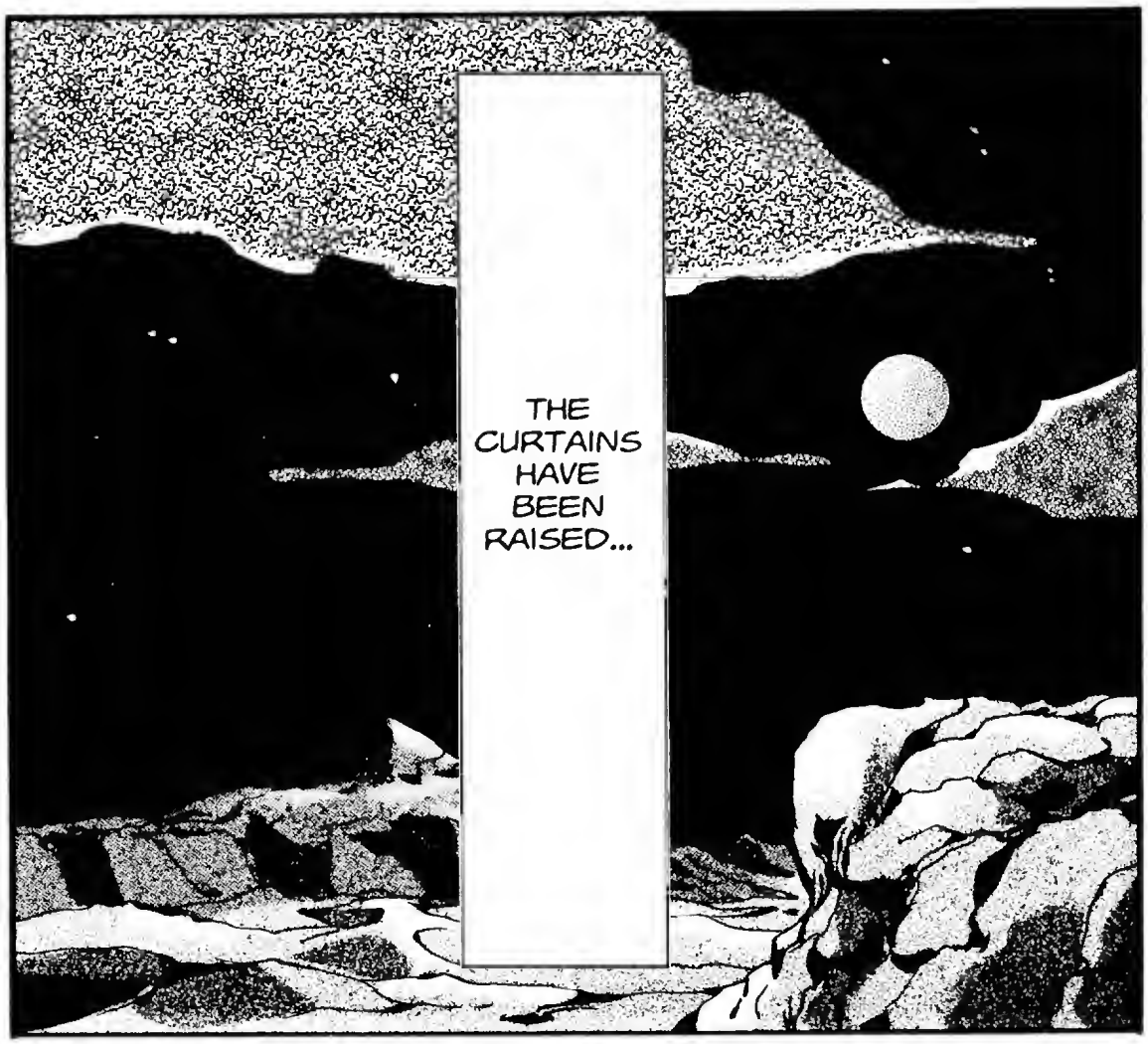
NOTHING...
THIS PLACE...
...WAS FAMOUS FOR ITS CHERRY BLOSSOMS, LONG AGO.
FLOWERS...
WHY ARE THERE FLOWERS HERE?
NAGI?

ちゃぁ



SHE'S NOT COMING...
SARASA...
TCH

YOU MUST GO TO SAKURA-JIMA.
TATARA.


THE CURTAINS HAVE BEEN RAISED...

YOU KNEW IT WAS COMING

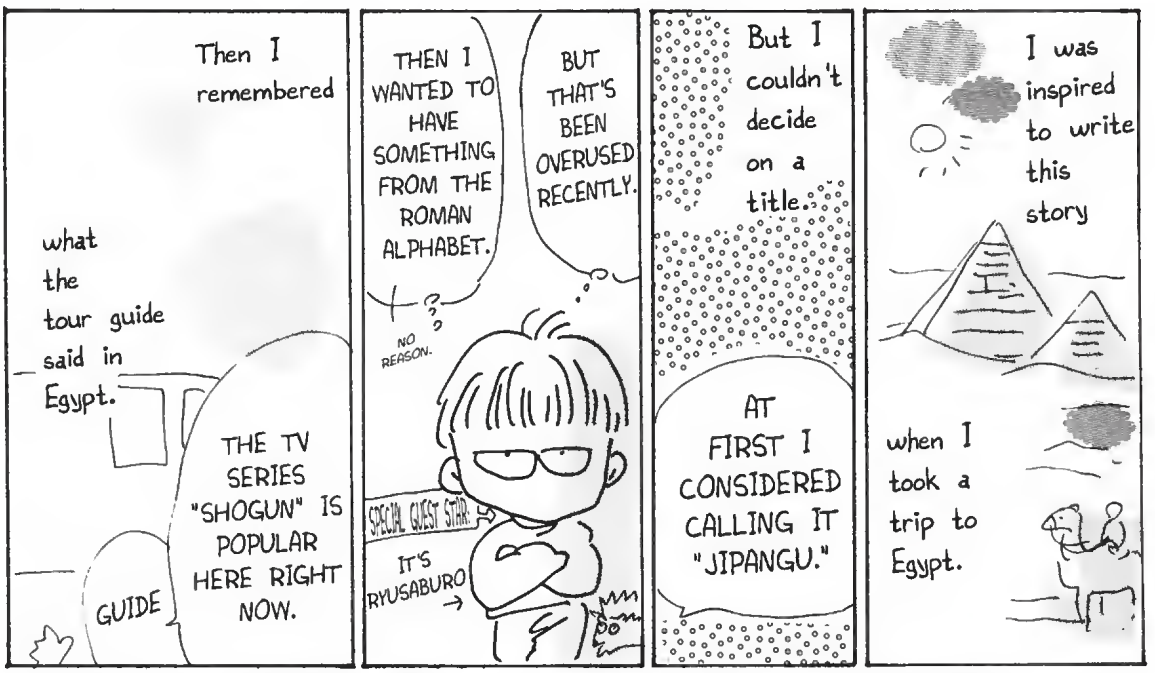
TAM TAM TIME LINE

You can't escape Tam-Tam Time, even in "Basara"!

How is everyone? Thanks for all your letters and your support! ♡

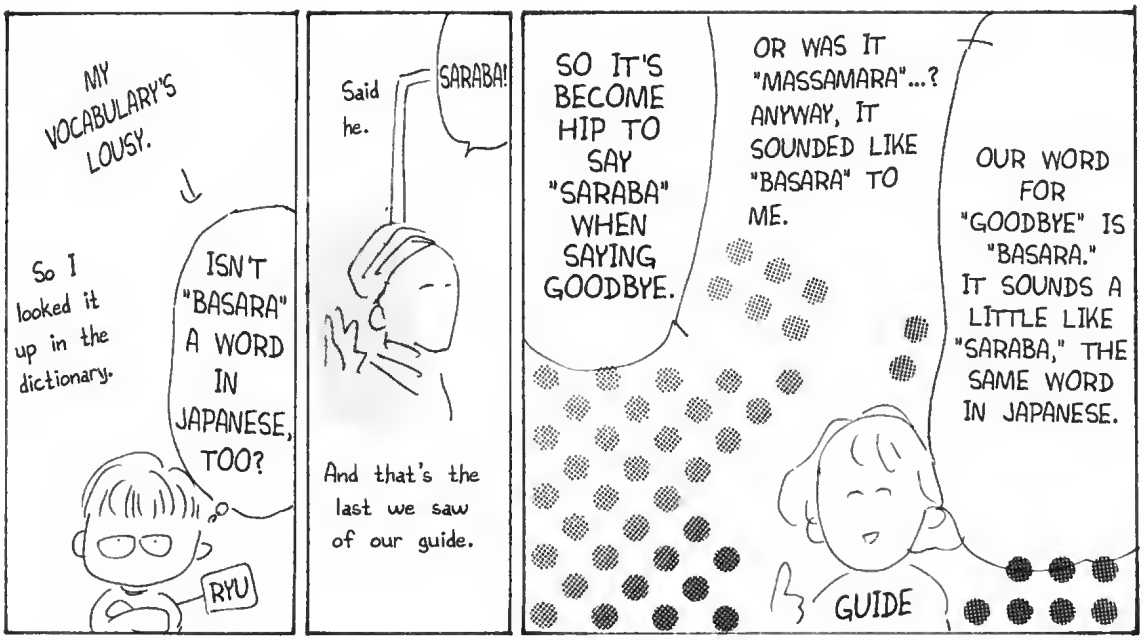
Some people claim to enjoy these columns, strangely enough. So I only do what I have to...

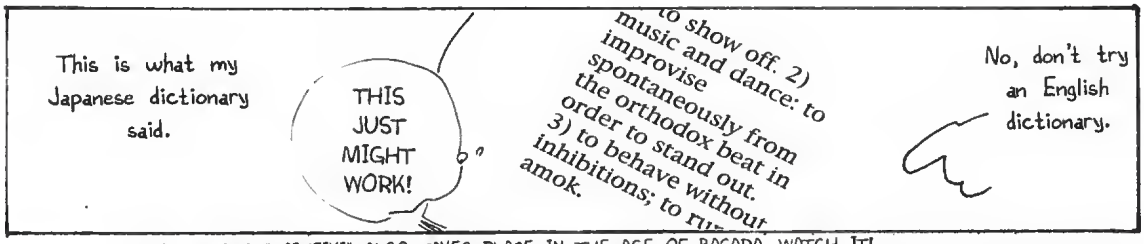
TAMU



I'D LIKE TO GO TO EGYPT AGAIN, BUT... I HOPE THE WAR WILL END SOON.

HE'S FROM MY SHORT STORY COLLECTION "WHY I BECAME A THEIF"





THE TV SAGA "TAIHEIKI" ALSO TAKES PLACE IN THE AGE OF BASARA. WATCH IT!

OOPS, I GUESS I JUST ENDORSED IT.

By the way...

TA TA RA

SA RA SA

People whose names have vowels that are earlier in the order "a-i-u-e-o" are said to be bolder.

YUM!

A real letter I got.

There are a lot of "antique tatara" in Okayama. Could this be related?

Yep.

They're related.

CONSULTING A DICTIONARY AGAIN.

Tatara: (n.) large bellows that are pressed with the feet, used in smelting.
-pressing tatara:
1) to send air throug pressing the bellows.
2) missing a step fro overstepping or overzealously applying force.

IT'S IN WESTERN JAPAN, SO THIS IS PERFECT.

There were a lot of legends of demons in iron making lands.

I came across the term "tatara."

Looking through a book on demons and monsters

Ooh!

I'M AVERAGE I GUESS...

They were making peace signs, and I was thinking they needed a lot of strength to stay on.

Two high school kids were clinging to the back of the bus.

They wore uniforms and had bleached hair.

It happened one day

2

...there was a middle-aged man playing a harmonica.

In a train, around midnight (on the Chuo Line I think)...

He was pretty drunk, but his music evoked some pathos.

The man next to him was trying to ignore him.

It happened one day

1

THANKS FOR READING!

SEE YOU!

LOOK FOR THE SECOND VOLUME SOON!

THE CONCEPT OF LOVE DIDN'T EXIST IN JAPAN BEFORE THE MEIJI PERIOD, YOU KNOW.

AND THE PARTS THAT MAKE UP THE KANJI (OR IDEOGRAM) MEAN "ACCEPT THE HEART."

PLEASE WRITE!

as if it was something precious." ...it said.

It falls at the beginning of the Japanese alphabet

In English, it can be spelled 'I' or 'eye.'

"The word 'ai' (which means 'love') is mysterious.

Lastly...

There was a wonderful passage in one of the letters I got.

EVERYONE TAKE CARE!